PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Great First Week!
Throughout this week I have had the pleasure of visiting many of your children in their classrooms and specialist programs. I could not be more pleased with the atmosphere of calm and productive endeavour evident throughout the school. The teachers’ focus has been on reintroducing our ‘Essex Heights Values’ and the ‘Expectations & Behaviours’ for each classroom through our ‘Starting Up-Starting Out” program. They have also been aiming to build strong relationships and establish a positive environment, and I have certainly seen that in operation.

It was also wonderful to see students who are new to Essex Heights (14 in total) being welcomed into the school and to see all children playing safely and cooperatively in the playground.

This great start certainly points to a positive and exciting year ahead for all in the Essex Heights community.

Planning and Preparation for 2015
On Wednesday of last week, all teaching and non teaching staff were involved in planning and preparation for the year ahead. We began with a meeting for all staff with a focus on some of the key initiatives and programs for 2015. As we draft up our new Strategic Plan 2015 -2018 (available on the website by the end of Term 1) it is important that all staff are aware and committed to the goals and direction it provides. Staff then spent time in Team Meetings and in classrooms making sure all was in readiness for the children to begin on Thursday.

I thank the teaching, support staff, office staff and cleaning team for their efforts in making our start as smooth as possible. Furthermore it has been fabulous to have Paul Davis and the team at our Holiday Program providing an enjoyable experience for the many students and families who have relied on this service during the last three weeks.

New Preps
Last Friday our 77 Prep students commenced with all that enthusiasm and energy that is so infectious in a school. Our Prep team of Natalie Zaibak, Lena Papadotos, Kristi Lloyd, Melanie Boyle, Lisa Carne and Joan Scott, together with a number of specialist and support staff welcomed our students and parents as they began their journey at Essex Heights. It was also really pleasing to note the many new families who are joining us here at Essex for the first time; we extend a special welcome to them. Thanks to the many Essex Heights parents who have assisted in welcoming our new Prep families to this friendly community.
During the coming Wednesdays our Prep staff will be conducting literacy and numeracy assessments with our students in preparation for the year ahead so the Prep children will not be attending school on that day.

This week I also enjoyed a visit from each of our Prep classes as they participated in a tour of the Admin area on Tuesday. They squeezed into my Office and proceeded to touch and poke everything on my desk. They had many questions to ask including ...... “Where has your hair gone Mr Crossett?”

Children from Prep L and Prep C in my Office ..... ‘helping me work’

**Educational Contributions 2015**

You will have received a letter this week in relation to this important area. Your support is crucial if we are to continue to provide the high calibre programs and opportunities for our students in the times ahead. Please read the letter carefully and contact the Office if you have any questions.

Additionally, we now have the capacity to send your family statements via email and many families have elected to take up this offer. If you would like to, please complete the form that came home with the Educational Contributions letter, or access it from the school website under ‘Notices’

**Student Leadership Positions**

Our Year 6 students play a pivotal role in this area and we expect to formally present badges to our School Captains, House Captains and other Leadership positions on Monday 23rd February at 2.45 p.m. in the School Hall. We are pleased to have our local State Parliament Member, Michael Gidley to join us for that Assembly to make the presentations. (Please see the list of the 2015 Student Leaders later in Contact.)

Similarly we look forward to continuing the great work undertaken by our Junior School Council and will have positions announced later in the month. Our Junior School Council comprises representatives from Years 3-6.

Importantly, all students in Year 6 will be given opportunities for leadership and development. An important part of this approach is the development of public speaking skills in all students. We look forward to our students working with us to conduct Assemblies and perform other duties in the year ahead.

**Parent Information Evenings for Yr 1-6 Classes**

We have scheduled Parent Information Evenings for the following dates and times, with a separate notice coming home to families next week.

Please note the following dates and times:

- **Preps** Monday, February 16th – 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Yrs 1 & 2** Monday, February 16th – 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Yrs 3 & 4** Tuesday, February 17th – 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Yrs 5 & 6** Tuesday, February 17th – 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Parent/Teacher Discussions**

These have been scheduled for **Monday, March 3rd and Tuesday March 4th**. 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.

Again, information will be forwarded shortly.
Grandparents & Special Friends Day
An early notification to let Grandparents and Special Friends know that we are planning their annual visiting day to school for Friday, March 27th, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm including a picnic lunch.

This is the last day of Term 1 and we will provide more details closer to the time.

Updating Medical Information
It is important for families to consider any changed medical needs of their children and ensure that we have up to date records regarding asthma, anaphylaxis, allergies or other conditions that may impact on the children at school. Please contact our First Aid Officer, Julie Zuk, via the Office to discuss these or any other related medical notifications.

Active Travel
Essex Heights has a strong culture of ‘active travel’ with many children walking, riding and scooting to school. A great deal of credit for this goes to a small group of parents who have championed the cause over many years. Thanks to Linda Cornell and Morwenna Griffiths for their commitment to building the ‘active travel’ culture at Essex Heights.

Thanks also to Robyn Perkin who has been part of the team in recent times. However, these ladies are looking for someone else (or a team) to carry on so please see their article in this week’s Contact and consider your interest in the role.

Student Illness and Accidents
At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details. Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other Insurance available? Yes.
There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found Online or through your Insurance Broker.

Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property
On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Looking forward to seeing you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal
## STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR 2015

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FROM THE OFFICE

Financial Statements:
Financial Statements will be coming home shortly with BPay details included. If you are paying via BPay could you please notify the school of your payment by sending an email to accounts@essexheightspss.vic.edu.au advising of your child’s name and the amount paid.

Education Maintenance Allowance
From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage. The majority of parents who receive the EMA payment have already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your School Principal.
Welcome back to all and a special welcome to our new families. I hope everyone has settled in well.

We have an exciting year ahead with lots of events - this year are holding 'The Carnival' which will be held in November. We will have rides, stalls, prizes, food and games - lots of things for both young and old. To make this a great carnival, donations and assistance are needed. If you would like to join the carnival committee, please email me at bettyacificiari@y7mail.com.

As one of the fundraisers for 'The Carnival' we are having a working bee for recycled christmas cards. More information will be available soon as to when and where it will be held. If you have christmas cards which have not been disposed of yet, please bring them to school and put into the box available in the front office.

A second hand uniform sale will be held in the stadium from 3.00 -3:45 pm on the 16th February, with some limited new uniforms available too. Helpers are needed from 2:30 and donations of any Essex Heights uniforms would be greatly appreciated.

Hope you all enjoyed your first week and Enjoy your weekend

Betty Ciorciari

Lessons will commence the week beginning Monday 9th February and Ensembles will start a week later beginning 16th February. 2015.

Handbooks and Instrumental Update are available on the School website.

Request for Volunteer Forms have been sent home. Please fill in and return them to Class teacher as soon as possible.

Menus / Price Lists will be sent home prior to Canteen commencing. We are hopeful of opening on Monday next week.

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.
SCHOOL BANKING

For all new students or anyone who would like to join the program here is how it works:

1. **Get youth saver account** from the Commonwealth Bank. You can open an account directly at any Commonwealth Bank by taking **your child’s birth certificate and your driver’s licence** to the bank or online if you are already a customer yourself.

2. Once you have an account number your child can now make deposits through the school by bringing the **filled in deposit slip in the yellow pouch** to school each Friday. Please make sure you include the exact money. If you have an account number but no deposit book or pouch please see me or send me a note on Friday and I will arrange one for you.

3. Your child earns a silver coin for every deposit made. When your child has earned 10 silver tokens we will swap the 10 tokens for 1 gold token which your child can keep. They also qualify for a little gift from the bank for every 10 deposits they make. The gifts for this year are on a reward card. Your child picks a gift, fills out that part of the reward card and sends it back to us.

4. The school receives a commission of 5% of all deposits made through the school and $5 for every new banker.

We hope the gifts encourage your children to become weekly bankers and get into the habit of saving regularly. Also, please remember the bank only gives your child the **bonus interest rate if they bank at least once a month**.

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.

CREATIVE DANCE CLASSES 2015

After School Dance classes will continue to be offered on **Mondays and Wednesdays** in 2015 for students in Prep to Year 4 at Essex Heights Primary. Classes are conducted by **Georgia Lombard** from **Creative Dance and Drama** and will take place in the **Stadium**.

Prep / Year 1 will be on Mondays & Years 2-4 will be on Wednesdays.

Classes begin at **3.40 pm** and finish at **4.25 pm**.

The Term 1, 2015 Dance program commences on the following dates:

- **Prep/1** 6 sessions $60  **Monday 9th February**
  (No class Monday 10th March – Labour Day)
- **Year 2-4** 7 sessions $70  **Wednesday 11th 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 [creativendanceanddrama.com](http://creativendanceanddrama.com) and request your desired form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama, 0402 024 891

ACTIVE TRAVEL

It's fantastic to see so many students riding their bikes and scooters to school, as well as walking and roller blading. This is testament to the many successful programs run over the years to encourage more active travel, as well as the bike and scooter parking facilities.

After many years of organising the Active Travel program, we feel it it time to "pass the baton". So, if you have the time and enthusiasm to be involved with an Active Travel program, please contact Morwenna Griffiths via the PFA (ehpspfa@gmail.com).

Thanks,
Morwenna, Linda and Robyn
## FEBRUARY 2015

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<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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<td>Term 1 finishes 2.30 p.m.</td>
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Free Tennis Open Day

Sunday 8th February
11.00am to 2.00pm

- Free Intro Tennis Lessons
- Jumping Castle
- Free court usage
- Sausage Sizzle
- Adults & Kids welcome
- Demo racquets & Ball machine
- Club Membership Specials
- If you can not make it on the day contact us to try tennis at another time

Come & play tennis at one of Melbourne’s premier tennis clubs.

Contact: info@vidatennis.com.au
www.vidatennis.com.au

Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club
260 High St Road Mt Waverley
www.glenistennis.org.au
You're invited

Bendigo Bank, First National Real Estate Waverley City and Miles Townsend Chartered Accountants proudly presents

Property Investment Inspiration

Free Information Session  Wednesday 25th February 2015

Bendigo Bank, First National Real Estate Waverley City and Miles Townsend Chartered Accountants invites you to attend an overview of 'How to Secure your Future by Investing Safely & Securely in today's Property Market'.

When:  Wednesday 25th February 2015
Time:   6.15pm arrival for a 6.30pm start
        Light refreshments will be provided
Where: Waverley RSL
       161 Coleman Parade
       Glen Waverley Vic 3150
RSVP:  By 18 February 2015 on 9887 7725
       or email glenwaverley@bendigobank.com.au

Meet our Guest Speakers

Warwick Merry
Imagine waking up on your sisters’ couch with no job, no car, no house, only the clothes in your suitcase and $36,000 debt. That is what Warwick Merry’s life was. Fast forward 10 years and he now has over $5 million worth of property, a successful business and a bed of his own. Come and learn the secrets of what he did, how he stayed inspired to achieve and what you can do to get ahead.

Shufang Zhao – First National Real Estate Waverley City
Terry Chung – Miles Townsend Chartered Accountants

Benefits include

- As an initiative created by both Bendigo Bank Glen Waverley and Bendigo Community Bank© Branch Pinewood, potential investors will be shown how it is possible to put an investment into place using NO cash deposit and how to structure your investments so you make little, if any, cash contribution.
- Current investors will also be offered a free yet invaluable “health check” of your existing investment portfolio to see how it can be made to perform even better. In other words, less money coming out of your pocket and a more financially rewarding investment for you.

Places are limited, so call 9887 7725 and reserve your seat today.

www.bendigobank.com.au

Bendigo Bank
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!

ESSEX HEIGHTS PS

CALISTHENICS!
Experience this unique blend of sport and artistry at your own school. We offer Calisthenics as a sporting option with Calisthenics Victoria qualified coaches delivering high quality programs.

Calisthenics combines the elements of dance and movement including gymnastics, ballet, modern dance, apparatus (rods and flags). Learn routines choreographed to music, so that you can present these routines in front of an audience. Calisthenics encourages physical development, coordination, self-discipline and team spirit.

WHEN: Tuesday
COMMENCING: 10 February ’15
CONCLUDING: 24 March ’15
TIME: 1.40pm – 2.30pm
YEAR LEVELS: 1 – 6

SUPER SUMMER SPORTS
This 7 week program includes Basketball or Netball, “World Cup” Soccer and Cricket, Hockey or T-Ball. Boys & Girls of all abilities welcome.

Our program is a fantastic way for your child to develop key sporting skills essential for all sports. It will inspire children to give sport a go as they develop their catching, throwing, kicking, striking, running and jumping skills. Our modified sport games provides lots of fun while skills are being developed.

WHEN: Monday
COMMENCING: 9 February ’15
CONCLUDING: 13 April ’15 *
TIME: 3.35pm – 4.35pm
YEAR LEVELS: 1 – 4

COST: $70 each. Enrol online – go to www.kellysports.com.au

VENUE: At School. Calisthenics: Hall. Sports: Meet at the steps to rear oval.

ENROLMENT FORM

☐ Calisthenics (Lunch time) ☐ Super Summer Sports (After School)

School: Essex Heights PS
Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Year Level: ____________________________
Room No: ____________________________
Post Code: ____________________________

Medical Conditions / Special Needs: ____________________________

Parents’ consent
I hereby authorise Kelly Sports to act on my behalf should my child require medical attention, and release Kelly Sports Burwood from any liability incurred by my child at Kelly Sports programmes.

☐ I authorise the use by Kelly Sports of any photographic or video image of my child or legal charge for any reasonable purpose.

To enrol, please visit www.kellysports.com.au or fill out the enrolment form below & send with a cheque or credit card details, or pay by internet banking: ANZ Bsb 013 830 A/c No 4936 98482 (use child’s first name as reference)
Mail to: PO BOX 71, Moonie Vale, VIC 3055. Email info@kellysports.com.au
Do not leave enrolment forms at the school office.
Free to a Good Home!

This pre-loved cubby house is looking for a new home. It needs a bit of work to the back wall, but is mostly sound. If you are interested, please contact Morwenna Griffiths (0401 491 051) to arrange an inspection.
Saturday Netball 2015
Essex Heights Netball Club is currently accepting registrations from girls and boys in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Games are played on Saturday mornings at Ashwood Netball courts (Farmer Street, Ashwood).

Training is on Thursday nights straight after school – 3:30 – 4:30pm – at the school’s netball courts.

Training will commence on Thursday 19 February and the season commences on Saturday 14 March.

For further information, please contact Rosemary Gillespie on 0408 070 435 or 9807 0435.

PILATES

TRY YOUR 1ST CLASS FOR $6!
Pilates is popular with all ages and abilities and can help with general fitness, a stronger, toned, more flexible body, improved posture, injury prevention, increased energy and enhanced wellbeing!

Shape up for Summer & find out what Pilates can do for you at our friendly classes!

Mon. 9.30am, Weds. 6pm, Thurs. 9.30am and Sat. 9.15am
The Uniting Church Hall, 482 High Street Rd, Mount Waverley. Mel: 61 G12

Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm
Parkhill Primary School Hall, Parkhill Drive, Ashwood. Mel: 60 K9

Cost: $13.00 per class for block bookings or $17.50 casual

Please contact Karen to reserve your place: email: karen@karensplilates.com Tel: 9807 0429 www.karensplilates.com

Ceres CALISTHENICS

Come and Try Classes - FREE

Calisthenics- gymnastics, dancing, singing – loads of fun!
You are invited to come along and try your first class- FREE

Under 12 year olds Saturday 2pm – 5pm
Under 10 year olds on Thursday 4pm – 5.30pm
Under 7 year olds on Saturday 10.00- 11.00
Ballet classes also run on Mondays after school.

Electra Community Centre, 21b Electra Avenue, Ashwood.
Enquiries call Wendy on 9561 1505 or cerescalisthenics@gmail.com

My name is Donna Bellato-Etchebile and I have two little girls at Essex Heights Primary School.

What started as a hobby many years ago has turned into my little business; Gruffalo & Child Body Art.

I specialise in transforming your little people with face painting, glitter hair, nail polish creations & glitter
MT. WAYERLEY GIRL GUIDES

For girls age 5 years and up...

Mt. Waverley Guide Hall, Fairway Avenue.

Email: mtwaverleygirlguides@gmail.com

FUN

OUTDOORS  FRIENDSHIP

COOKING  CAMPING

LIFE SKILLS  ADVENTURE

CONFIDENCE BOOSTING  GAMES  TEAM WORK

BELLY DANCE CLASSES

Mums come join the fun and get a good workout!

First class free

Fridays at 9:30AM
Starting February 6th

For booking text or call
Inbal 0431-430386
or email inbellydancedance@gmail.com

BDC Dance
13/15 Yerituchuk Ave, Ashwood

InBellyDance
Waverley Gymnastics Centre

GLEN WAVERLEY CAMPUS

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO LEARN HANDSTANDS,
CARTWHEELS & SOMERSAULTS?? HERE’S THEIR CHANCE!
Gymnastics is not only a fantastic and fun sport in its own right; it also
gives an exceptional base level of coordination, skill and confidence that
assists children to achieve in all their other sports and life skills!
Waverley’s Glen Waverley campus at Wesley College is an outstanding venue, with exceptionally fully
qualified coaches, offering fun and challenging gymnastics classes for primary school-aged children of
all abilities! We also run daytime classes at our Mt Waverley venue for pre-school aged children.

Times: Monday & Tuesday afternoons, & Saturdays.
Address: 620 High Street Road, Glen Waverley
(Melways Ref. 62 A12)

TERM 1 POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE!
CALL NOW TO BOOK A TRIAL CLASS!
For more information, or to book a trial class, please call 9887-9611
or visit www.waverley.gymnastics.org.au.

HOOK IN2 HOCKEY

MONASH University

WHEN: Thursdays
3:45pm-4:45pm
12th Feb - 18th March 2016
WHERE: Essex Heights
Primary School (School Oval)

TO REGISTER PLEASE
CONTACT:
Brianna Hardy via
monashjuniors@gmail.com

Hockey is a great activity that provides your kids with a healthy lifestyle,
long lasting friendships and a great sense of sportsmanship.

JOIN US IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

Fun, inspiring classes in drama
and musical theatre for kids!
From novice to advanced.

• Develop successful life skills
like-confidence, communication
and teamwork.
• Great value - all weekly classes,
workshops and costumes included.
No registration fee.
• Perform on stage twice a year.
• 30 years of success.
• Highly qualified, experienced teachers.

CALL 9384 1644
to book a free, no-obligation
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Classes start in February/March

Convenient classes in your local area
17 locations across metro Melbourne.
2015
13CABS Taxi Driver Memorial Cup
In Support of
Monash Children’s Hospital

All-Stars vs 13CABS Drivers
Get down early so you don’t miss any of the T20 action!

Monday 23 February 2015 - first ball @ 3.30pm
Essex Heights Reserve
Cnr Huntingdale Road & Essex Road
Mount Waverley VIC

Supported by

13CABS thanks you for your support of the Monash Children’s Hospital