PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

School Council Election - 2015
A reminder that the nomination period, as outlined in the parent bulletin circulated earlier this week, closes on Monday February 16th at 4:00pm. Self Nomination forms are available from the Office, or on the Essex Heights PS website under the Notices tab. The completed forms will need to be returned to the Office.

Car Parking & Safety

I would like to seek parental assistance with some traffic safety concerns that have come 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 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.
- Equally, this Staff Car Park is not a 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 Rd, 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. I have asked the Council By-Laws Officers to patrol this area more 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 Rd at the supervised crossing in the 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 Rd is busy at 9am and 3:30pm.

I invite all parents to support us in these requests in order to ensure the safety of all the children.

CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1, 2015</th>
<th>Term 2, 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>16th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>13th April</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondhand Uniform Sale - 3.00 – 3.45 p.m. in the Stadium</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Information Evening – Prep = 6.30-7.30 p.m., Year 1 &amp; 2 = 7.30 -8.30 p.m. (Hall)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>17th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Information Evening – Years 3 &amp; 4 = 6.30 – 7.30 p.m, Years 5 &amp; 6 = 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. (Hall)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>PFA Meeting – 7.30 p.m. staffroom</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chess Ideas classes commence</strong></td>
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<td><strong>26th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pink Stumps Day Cricket Match Fundraiser – 11.30 – 1.30 (Staff v. Yr 6)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>26th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Council Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2nd March</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parent Teacher Discussions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PUPIL FREE DAY – Students do not attend school on this day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>PUPIL FREE DAY – Students do not attend school on this day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Students do not attend school on this day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10th – 13th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>Year 6 Camp – Forest Lodge</strong></td>
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<td><strong>18th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>PFA Annual General Meeting</strong></td>
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<td><strong>20th &amp; 26th March</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Photo Days</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grandparents &amp; Special Friends Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Last day Term 1 – 2.30 p.m. finish</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Last day Term 1 – 2.30 p.m. finish</strong></td>
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**Term 2, 2015**

**13th April**

**Term 2 commences**
**Council Recycling Bins**

Last year we were pleased that Monash Council has now included us in the weekly recyclable rubbish collection. We have eleven ‘yellow lid’ bins around the school and teachers have been including the recycling message in class discussions.

However, we do need to have these bins placed on the gutter by Sunday night to ensure pickup early Monday morning. Marita Steward (Yr 2 teacher & our Recycling Coordinator) would like to draw up a roster of families who would be prepared to come up to school on Sunday afternoon and wheel the eleven bins (which will be lined up beside the Art Room) out the front gate and onto the nature strip in front of the school, near the Crossing. If you are able to help in this regard, please contact the Office and add your name to the list. Depending on the number of families involved, this may only be required 1 or 2 times a year? It doesn't take long at all and the students feel proud to help our school community.

Thank you in anticipation.

**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.

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

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

All sessions will begin in the Hall before moving to individual classrooms.

**Parent/Teacher Discussions**

These 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. Detailed information and your PTO Family Login were sent home with the children on Tuesday. Bookings will open for parents on Monday, February 16th at 4:00 pm. Please contact the Office if you need assistance with this process.

***Important School Notices***

Please remember to return the ‘Group Permission Notice’ that covers a number of items requiring annual parent consent, that was sent home today. Please ensure this comes back to school with one notice signed for each child.

**Tips on Talking!**

The beginning of the school year is a new and exciting time! It is the perfect opportunity for parents to engage in some great conversations with their children. Our students have many different learning experiences throughout the day, focusing on different curriculum aspects and learning concepts. Yet, often when asked about their day, the response can be very broad “It was good”, “I played cricket”, “Not much happened”. If you want specifics we need to think of explicit questions about key aspects of the day- “What books did you read/listen to today”? “Did you write a story today, what was it about? - how are you trying to improve your writing”?

In a broader sense, the links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with children from a young age is indisputable. The language stimulation they receive when they talk with parents is one factor. The language of first born is generally more extensive and richer than their siblings who spend less time in one-on-one situations with a parent. In many ways it is through conversations that children get a real sense of us and who we are. It is by talking with our children that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts as well as how we get a window into their world and how they think.

Getting conversations going with some children can be a massive challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, and kids that clam up are some of the blockers to conversation that parents meet.
Here are five ideas from Michael Grose (Parent Educator) to help you get more conversation going in your family:

1. Turn off the TV (and other screens): Most homes have a range of electronic screens that you compete with to get their attention. Don’t be afraid to take control of those screens and create a little conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you are a home full of screen junkies.

2. Turn on the TV (and other screens): If you can’t beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder particularly for older children and teens. This can range from “who’s going to win Australian Idol?”, “what happens to the winners of Australian Idol?” to “what is the point of Australian Idol?”

3. Have more mealtimes (with the TV off): The family that eats together talks together…or they should. So make mealtimes special and insist that kids sit until everyone finishes rather than they eat all their peas. Avoid turning mealtimes into food fights that you can’t win.

4. Move more: If sitting and chatting is not your child’s thing then try getting them up and moving. Boys will often talk when they walk or play so consider getting some action happening. When their hands are busy the tongues will often loosen up.

5. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting: Sitting together in a car, washing dishes and playing a game can provide opportunities for talk. Take the eye contact out of the equation and you may find the talk just flows.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens.

See you around the school,
Andrew Crosett
Principal

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE (B.A.S.C.)
Dear Parents,
Welcome to all the families using the program. If this is your first foray into the program we hope it is an enjoyable experience for your family.

For all new parents enrolling can you please ensure that you have provided us with your
1. Child’s Customer Reference Number, And
2. The Family’s Customer Reference Number
Without these numbers you will not be able to receive Childcare Rebates or Benefits.

There will be a Curriculum Day Program on the 5th and 6th of March. If you require care for these days you must book your child into the program. Places are limited so enrol early. Enrolment forms will be out on the 19/2/15. Could parents please ensure that they provide their children with sunscreen and a hat if attending aftercare. Children will not be allowed outside if they do not have sun protection.

Could families also ensure that they keep their accounts up to date.

Thank You
Paul Davis

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS
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.

Wednesday 18th February is the first PFA meeting for the year so please come along, we would love to hear your ideas. We will meet in the staffroom at 7:30 p.m.

Plans are underway for our Carnival and we are in planning for food stalls. If you have ideas or would like to be a part of organising a food stall please email me at bettyciortari@y7mail.com. Food and all stalls are such a big part of the carnival and we would love to see inhouse talent of what Essex Heights can provide for our Carnival and your children will love seeing you there being involved of their school.

Enjoy your weekend
Betty Ciorciari
FROM THE OFFICE

Financial Statements:
Request that if you are paying via BPay could you please notify the school of your payment by sending an email to accounts@essexheightsps.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.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

The Music Committee would like to welcome and introduce our new Piano and Keyboard teacher on Fridays – Sasha Hartdoebler.

A pianist from age 3, she has been involved in music all her life! She has been teaching piano for approximately 12 years in many different environments and has completed piano and harpsichord studies to tertiary level at Australian Catholic University. Sasha has extensive performing experience on the keyboard in original and cover bands and also plays the harp at weddings and special events. (See harplove.com.au for more information!)

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 is on Mondays & Years 2-4 is held on Wednesdays. Classes begin at 3.40 pm and finish at 4.25 pm.

The Term 1, 2015 Dance program commenced on Monday with the Prep and Year 1 and the Years 2 – 4 started on Wednesday.

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 creativedanceanddrama.com and request your desired form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama, 0402 024 891
Request for Volunteer Forms have been sent home. If you would like to help in the Canteen, please complete and send the form back to school.

**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).

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Volunteers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Amanda Kelsall, Joanne O’Mara, Erica Baddeley</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>16th Feb</td>
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**Berita Bahasa Indonesia!**

Selamat Tahun Baru 2015

Welcome to the new year! It’s very exciting to be in our second year of our Indonesian language program, with lots happening already!

The children are currently creating a beautiful display about their collective learning of the language. Look out for a photo in the coming weeks.

The Preps have made a wonderful start to their Indonesian learning and are already using words and phrases without prompting!

I am also very pleased to have Year 6 Indonesian Captains who have eagerly told me about some of their creative ideas for the program! We look forward to Jane and Aaliyah leading their peers throughout the year.

There are also a couple of festivals coming up which families may be interested in attending:

**Sunday February 15th**

**Clayton Street Festival** (along Clayton Road between Clayton Railway Station and Centre Road)

12 noon – 6pm

**Indonesian Performances:**

- Main Stage 12.40pm – 12.55pm
- Workshop Marquee 2.00pm – 2.30pm

Details: monash.vic.gov.au/events

**Sunday April 19th**

**Indonesia Street Festival**

Queen Victoria Market
513 Elizabeth St
Melbourne,

Details: www.visitvictoria.com/regions/Melbourne/Events/Multicultural/Indonesia-Street-Festival

Terima kasih
Alex ‘Bu’ Douros
## FEBRUARY 2015

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<td>2nd hand Uniform sale</td>
<td>Information Evening</td>
<td>Chess Ideas starts</td>
<td>PFA Meeting</td>
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## MARCH 2015

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<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp</td>
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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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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.
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 invite you to attend an overview of How to Secure your Future by Investing Safely & Securely in today’s Property Market.

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 30 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 contributions.
- 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 9867 7725 and reserve your seat today.

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