Acting Principal’s Report

Andrew Crossett – Update

The staff were very happy to see Andrew and his wife, Heather, on Tuesday afternoon, at our staff end of year afternoon tea, and they seemed very pleased to see us! Andrew expressed his heartfelt thanks for all the support, care and concern that he and Heather and their family have continued to receive from the whole Essex Heights community. He is hopeful that he may be able to attend Monday afternoon’s farewell picnic, but this will of course depend on how he is feeling on the day.

Farewell to 2016

We are at the end of another very successful year for Essex Heights PS. There have been many highlights across the year in terms of major events, but the main focus continues to be the learning that takes place every day in the classrooms. The daily educational opportunities for every child remain our goal, and form the foundation for our success.

On behalf of Andrew Crossett, I’d like to thank all our School Councillors who contribute positively to the governance of the school and support our drive for continuing high standards of education, under the leadership of President Trevor Sharrock. Thanks also to the Parents & Friends Association who have organised many terrific school events for students and the community, whilst also raising valuable funds for the school, and to the leadership of President Andrea Jordan.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and others here for our Parent Helper morning tea on Thursday morning. To all those who support us,
the staff and students wish to thank you for all your contributions throughout this year which have “added value” to our school. Research shows that children who see their parents up and around the school helping out in some way feel more connected to their school and in many circumstances perform better in their studies. With your assistance, our school continues to be an extremely busy and dynamic learning environment.

Again, on behalf of Andrew, I would like to sincerely thank the dedicated and hardworking staff who have contributed to the success of Essex Heights Primary School in 2016. Their professionalism, diligence and the high level of care shown to all of our students are all highly valued.

We continue to have a high level of interest in enrolment at Essex Heights, with enquiries for 2017 continuing even at this late stage of the year.

**Timor Leste**

Congratulations to our wonderful Junior School Councillors, who have facilitated fundraising efforts over the year. In particular, thanks to them and to all students who have donated through the “Money Munchers”.

A total of $1,022.80 has been raised to send to Timor Leste.

**Student Placement for 2017**

The placement of students has been an enormous task taking hours of review and reflection. All students were informed of their placement for 2017 on Wednesday, as they visited their new teachers. Wherever possible we have endeavoured to place each student with at least one friend they have nominated. Sometimes of course there are other considerations, however on balance we are endeavouring to do what we believe to be in the best interests of all students.

Thanks to the staff for the enormous time spent on this task given a myriad of other competing demands including moving classrooms in some cases, graduation, transition, celebrations, student reports and organisation of supplies and materials for 2017.

**Graduation – Year 6**

We are anticipating with great excitement today’s Grade 6 Graduation lunch and ceremony. This promises to be a memorable evening and I congratulate the efforts of our Parent Committee led by Betty Ciorciari for their hard work and organisation. Many others have contributed and we thank them for all their efforts.

A big thank you also to our Year 5/6 teachers in Janet McGinn (Coordinator), Lauren Goodwin, Kelvin Tang, Andrew Russell and Con Papanicolaou for all their work with the students in preparation for the graduation events. We are all very proud of our Year 6 students and the superb manner in which they continue to conduct themselves. Good luck for tonight!
Educational Contributions – 2017

At this stage we have not distributed information about 2017 Educational Contributions. We wish to inform you that School Council has decided not to make an increase in the Essential Educational items for 2017.

Charges for 2017 will be:

- Essential Educational items of $320 per student.
- Voluntary Contributions:
  - Grounds Maintenance of $30 per family
  - ICT Support of $30 per family
  - Contribution to the Health Centre and First Aid Officer of $30 per family

These funds are critical to the support of our educational provision at Essex Heights. More information will be provided during the first week of February 2017.

Holiday Security

Over the last few years we have seen an increase in the level of after hours community use of our school grounds. In most instances, the members of the community who use our school do so with regard to the values we place on our grounds and facilities. Occasionally this does not happen. In the past we have been delighted to find that our neighbours have contacted 000 and/or the Department of Emergency Management on 9589 6266. If you are in and around the school over the vacation please continue this practice. It strengthens our community and makes it safer for all our students and their families.

Reminder: School Finish – 1.30pm on Tuesday 20th December

Please be aware that consistent with the Department of Education and Training, and the direction of our School Council, school will finish on Tuesday 20th December at 1.30pm. We will of course have After School Care commencing from this time.

As is traditional, we will have a final assembly at 12.45pm. This will be conducted in the school Hall. We warmly welcome our parents and community members to attend to join this final Assembly for the year.

School will resume for our students in Year 1 to 6 on Wednesday 1st February 2017. Our Prep students will commence on Thursday 2nd February 2017.

Enjoy a restful and relaxing holiday and see you in 2017,

Joan Scott
Acting Principal
PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT

I am very pleased to let you know that George Perini has been appointed as Principal to Essex Heights for a period of six months, while Andrew is on leave. George comes to our school with over 25 years of experience as a Principal and educational leader.

He has held a range of positions in the Western and Eastern regions of the Education Department. His experience encompasses P-12 colleges, multi-campus schools, school reorganisations, and strategic works within the Education Department.

Most recently, George has been the Principal of Healesville High School and has led the school through a complete redevelopment and broadening of curriculum provision for all students.

George is passionate about student engagement and learning. He is primarily concerned with ensuring that all students have access to opportunities to maximise their potential. He is a caring and committed educator who has made a huge impact in each school he has led.

Next week George will visit us to meet the staff and to familiarise himself with the school before the start of the 2017 school year.

Berita Bahasa Indonesia!

Terima Kasih banyak (thank-you very much) ..... 
... to all the families who have contributed resources to our Indonesian Room this year. We are very lucky to have such a culturally rich room which has evolved from everyone’s contributions over the past 3 years.

Thank-you everyone 😊

I would also like to specially thank Don Jordan who has once again surprised us with his amazing craft-making talents and constructed a ‘Becak’ which joins our beautiful Wayang Kulit (shadow puppet) screen.

There are going to be some fun days ahead with this creation!

Selamat Hari Natal dan Selamat Liburan (Happy Christmas and Happy holidays).

Alex ‘Bu’ Douros 😊
JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The JSC are asking students to donate their 2016 pencils, textas and pencil cases to the students in Timor Leste.

If parents are happy for their child to leave their items at school, they can let their teacher know. The Junior School Councillors will collect these items in the last week of school.

Also a reminder for any donations of safety goggles, gloves and power tools for the community of Same in Timor Leste. The blue tub is in Mrs Scott’s office where donations can be placed.

Thank you,
The Junior School Council

GROUNDSCOMMITTEE

SUMMER WATERING

Thank you to the families and community members who have volunteered to do the watering over the coming summer holiday.

As the new school year begins in 2017, we are looking for volunteers to keep up the watering schedule to maintain our lovely grounds. Please contact Kristen Steer by email at kristen.m.steer@gmail.com to indicate your interest.

SCHOOL BANKING

- The last day for School Banking this year will be Monday 19th December.
- Next year, School Banking will move to Tuesday, with the first banking day being Tuesday 7th February 2017.
- Our school has so far received a commission of $2,480 (from January to September).
- Prizes – the last order was placed on 5th December and will be delivered before the end of the year.

Joining School Banking

There are a number of ways you can participate in School Banking:

- If you already have a Youthsaver/Dollarmite account, bring it along every Tuesday in 2017.
- Existing CBA customers can go online via Netbank and open an account.
- New customers can visit any CBA branch (Hamilton Place, Mt Waverley, is the nearest branch).
Alternatively you can register your interest at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.
You will receive a prompt early next year with all the information you need to open your account.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you and Merry Christmas to all the bankers, parents, teachers who supported the banking program in many ways, and most of all, the volunteers who have given their time every Monday to make the program possible.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2017.

**Stef and the Banking Team**

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**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Dear Parents,

If you have not cleared your Before and After Care account it is now overdue.

**All accounts must be cleared by this Friday, 16th December.**

Thanks to the majority of families that have paid their accounts for 2016. The program appreciates your cooperation and support.

I need to acknowledge Mr Crossett, Mrs Scott, Ms Kuehlich, Mrs McCann and Mrs George for their ongoing commitment and unwavering support.

Thanks must go to the Essex Heights PS School Council and the OSHC Committee for their support and encouragement.

I would like to thank all the BASC staff for their commitment to the program. Their diligent efforts ensure your children are provided with the highest quality.

Thank you to all the families that support the program. You are an amazing, decent, nurturing and caring community. Thank you all so much for supporting the program.

Words will not be able to express my gratitude to Mr Andrew Crossett. It has been an honour and privilege to work with such a dynamic and illuminating leader. Thank you for the encouragement, guidance and most importantly the laughs and good times.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Thank you,**

**Paul Davis**
FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

A warm thank you to all those who:
- Rolled the bins out
- Planted on special days
- Attended working bees
- Put together the raised garden beds
- Watered the vegie patch
- Weeded the vegie patch
- Bought chicken food
- Supplied empty containers

We are so happy to have Henny Penny and Chicken Licken laying delicious eggs and would like to thank the Ciorciari family and the School Holiday program for looking after them over the Summer holiday. We recently had a big thumbs up from the R.S.P.C.A. for our enclosure and the feeding and water schedule.

Happy clucky holidays.

RUBBISH FREE LUNCH

In 2016 many families supported the Essex Heights Rubbish Free Lunch (RFL) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Of course it is recommended that each day is a RFL day. Also, please encourage your children to pack any uneaten foods back into their lunch box. This is a great way to see how much your child has eaten throughout the day.

Enjoy a well-deserved, relaxing and safe Summer holiday,

The 2016 Sustainability Team

MUSIC NEWS

2017 Music: Count Us In National Songwriting Competition

The 2017 National Songwriting Competition will open soon. Students will have the opportunity to enter the competition and win the chance to help write the 2017 Program Song. We are looking for entries that celebrate music in the lives of young people - with melodies and lyrics that appeal to Australian students. Encourage your children to start thinking about their entries, now.
Hi everyone,

Being president of the PFA at Essex Heights Primary School is one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done. It’s a privilege to work alongside the talented staff and volunteers in our community. The wonderful people around me have made me feel valued and appreciated. Thank you.

I’ll be resigning as president at the annual general meeting next March, so look forward to a new “face of the PFA” in 2017. Next year will be my last year at Essex Heights so I’ll spend it supporting the new team and helping with the transition where I can.

It’s been terrific to see the small army of helpers that emerges whenever we run a PFA event. But I want to say particular thanks to those who put their hands up to organise an event. It makes such a difference to the PFA committee when organisers step forward. Heartfelt thanks to Jen Hill, Raema Ford, Stef WC, Jess Harper, Tristan Rogers, Pauline Aikman, Deb Leigh, Sharon Leong, Jenny Spowart, Jacinta Savage, Megan Rogers, Willemijn Poelchau, Rosa Mahood, Caroline Thomas and of course Betty Ciorciari, who seems to be everywhere. (I have tried to be “a bit more Betty” in my time as president. I’m not sure that I’ve always managed to do it, but she continues to inspire me with her calm, kind and positive manner.)

This year I’ve worked with three quiet achievers on the PFA committee: Andrea Fyfe, Maria Akritidis and Kaye Nolan. I’ve learned a few things from each you inspiring ladies. Thank you so much for all your hard work and intelligent input.

Special thanks also to our amazing admin team: Janine, Jo, Gael, Barb, Katrina, Joan and Ina. None of this could happen without your support. And your cheerful manner and can-do attitude make working together a pleasure. Thank you for making us parents feel like a part of the family.

Finally, Andrew Crossett. What can I say? So many people feel so thankful for all you’ve done for us and our children. And we’ve had the best time together. We wish you joy.

Now I don’t think I can wriggle out of work to attend the parent helpers’ morning tea on Thursday, so I hope to see you at the **Farewell Family Picnic** for Mr Crossett on Monday night (6pm, and remember to BYO dinner, drinks and picnic rug or chairs). It’s looking probable that Andrew will be able to come along, at least for a little while.

I wish you a peaceful and relaxing holiday, and a new year filled with love and laughter.

*Andrea J*
## EHPS CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 2016

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<td>Parent Helpers Morning Tea 11am</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Farewell Family Picnic 6pm</td>
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<td>End of Term 4 Final assembly 12.45pm Dismissal 1.30pm</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</td>
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### 2017 School Year

**Term 1:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- **Teachers & Staff commence/State wide student free day** –
  - NO STUDENTS: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- **EHPS Curriculum Day** – NO STUDENTS: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- **Years 1 to 6 Students start:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- **Prep Students start:** Thursday 2nd February (staggered start, finishing at 1pm)

**Term 2:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 3:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Term 4:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December
PRODUCTS & SERVICES ADVERTISED IN CONTACT ARE PLACED ON A PAID BASIS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY BEING PROMOTED BY ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Looking for an activity for girls from Prep to Year 2 in 2017?
This is your chance to try something new and cool and Bennettswood Girl Guides wants YOU!

We meet on Saturday morning 10.15am to 11.30am at Bennettswood Guide Hall in Station St (near Highbury Rd). Our older girls meet on Tuesdays from 6pm to 8pm.

Girl Guides provides a non-formal education program that is a dynamic, flexible and values-based training in life skills, decision-making and leadership. It’s a great chance to make some new friends too! Come give it a try!

We would also welcome adults (female) who are interested in working with girls through our Guiding Program.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Adnams on 0407 542 680 or email eadnams@baxtercourt.id.au

Empowering girls and young women grow into confident, self respecting, responsible community members.

St. Luke’s Preschool

Call us 1300 261 685

St. Luke’s Preschool

Opening soon

Mulgrave Childcare & Kindergarten

• Privately owned, family operated centres since 1995
• State of the art, purpose built centre in Nexus Business Park with inspiring indoor and outdoor spaces
• Individualised childcare and a passionate, experienced team of educators from nursery to 4 year old kindergarten

Platypus Junction Mulgrave, 5 Nexus Court, Mulgrave
Places filling fast, 1300 261 685 or platypusjunction.com.au

Joey Scouts - Prep Students

Joey Scouts is the youngest section of the Scouting Movement, targeting girls and boys aged 6 to 7.
Local groups currently have some vacancies for Prep students interested in trying Scouting. Contact one of the leaders below now to arrange a three week trial.

2nd/3rd West Waverley Joey Scouts
24 Stalibury Rd, Ashwood
Monday 7pm – 8pm
Contact Chris at chrisomeara8@gmail.com

1st West Waverley Joey Scouts
(also accepting 5 year olds)
Fairway Ave, Mount Waverley
Tuesday 5:45pm – 6:45pm
Contact Sarah at 1swavwestwaverleyjoeyss@gmail.com

Waverley Valley Joey Scouts
Valley Reserve, 2 Willis St, Mount Waverley
Wednesday 6pm – 7pm
Contact Jane at sv.groupleader@gmail.com

Adult volunteers also welcome!
UNIFORM ITEMS AVAILABLE

- 2 pairs of grey school shorts (size 12)
- a pair of grey long pants
- woollen jumper with school logo
- A pair of black school shoes (size 7½)
- A pair of Nike sneakers (size 7)
- MWSC school bag

All these items are used but are clean and in good condition.

Please contact the EHPS front office if you are interested.