**Principle’s Report**

****Please note changed times and arrangements for Tuesday’s ‘Parent Information Evening’ Updated notice sent home today and available on the school website.****

**Pupil Free Day – Monday February 29th**

A reminder to parents that next Monday is a *Pupil Free Day*. These days are highly valued for staff training and development, with particular focus on aspects of our *Strategic Plan 2015-2018* (available on the school website). On Monday the topic is student wellbeing for both Teaching and Education Support Staff. We have some guest speakers working with the Education Support Team with a focus on the wellbeing of the children in their care. Teachers are continuing to expand their understanding of the ‘*School Wide Positive Behaviour*’ program that we launched last year. This is designed to build a consistency of language and expectations across the school and help children understand the practical expectations of following the ‘*Essex Heights Values*’.  

---

**Calendar Dates**

| Term 1, 2016 |  
|---|---|
| 25<sup>th</sup> February | School Council 7.30 – Staff Room |
| 29<sup>th</sup> February | Pupil Free Day **No Students Attend** |
| 1<sup>st</sup> March | Parent Information Night 6.30- 8.30pm |
| 3<sup>rd</sup> March | School Photographs |
| 4<sup>th</sup> March | School Photographs |
| 4<sup>th</sup> March | Schools Clean-up Day |
| 7<sup>th</sup> March | Harmony Day - Incursion |
| 9<sup>th</sup> March | Prep Science Morning 9-11am |
| 9<sup>th</sup> March | PFA AGM 7.30-8.30PM |
| 14<sup>th</sup> March | Public Holiday – Labour Day |
| 15-18<sup>th</sup> March | Yr 6 Camp |
| 24<sup>th</sup> March | Grandparents & Special Friends Day 11.30-2pm |
| 24<sup>th</sup> March | Last Day - Term 1 2.30 Dismissal |

| Term 2, 2016 |  
|---|---|
| 11<sup>th</sup> April | First Day - Term 2 |
The ‘Essex Heights PS Expectations’ posters (see below) are on display now and help reinforce the message for the children of ‘Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be a Learner’. If you look closely at the bottom of these posters you will also find an important statement that teachers reinforce with the children:

“Fairness doesn’t mean everyone gets the same; fairness means everyone gets what they need.”

I would invite parents to use this line in discussions with children at home as it is an important distinction that can be difficult for them to understand.

Another component of the ‘School Wide Positive Behaviour’ program is efficient tracking of student wellbeing matters. This will be facilitated by Compass and part of the day will be introducing this feature to the staff.

**Pink Stumps Day**

Yesterday we conducted our annual “Pink Stumps Day” grudge match between the Staff and a team of Yr 6 children. This is a fun event and both teams were supported by the rest of the school who came out to watch. Having said that, there was a clear bias in the crowd support with the Yr 6 Team certainly being the favourites! Not sure why?

Following a hard fought match, the Yr 6 Team was victorious this year for the first time in a couple of years. I would like to acknowledge the great way both teams competed …….. and the massive variation of skill level in the staff team! 😊

Thanks to; Con Papanicolaou for organising this event; the staff and children for supporting the event by dressing in pink; the PFA for supplying icy-poles for the whole school and everyone who donated, as we raised $640 for the McGrath Foundation which is a mighty effort.

A great day all round!
Essex Heights Dance Program – “Land Down Under”

The “Land Down Under” Dance Program began this week with all children having the first of their eight sessions with our dance teacher, Georgia Lombard. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children and we look forward to the Concert in May when we can see the results of their hard work. A reminder to parents who have not yet paid their $20 incursion charge, for the tuition, to do so as soon as possible.

Instrumental Music Provision

Our Instrumental Music provision is highly valued within our school community and is very much part of the culture of our school. It is a program that is widely acknowledged to be exceptional at the primary level.

Shortly, Family Statements will be sent out to all families involved with this service. In order that we can continue to provide this program at minimal cost it is crucial that these accounts are paid in advance and I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
Currently our Instrumental Music program is supported by the following personnel:

- Alyssa Kennedy (Coord) - Violin, Viola, Cello & String Ensembles
- Andy Clarke - Percussion/Drum Kit & Ukulele
- Maurice Duband - Piano & Keyboard
- Sarah Green - Flute & Beginner Band
- Sasha Hartdobler - Piano, Harp & Keyboard
- Peter King - Guitar & Guitar Ensembles
- Marc Law - Trumpet & Trombone
- Mary Macmillan - Double Bass
- Norm Rachkovsky - Clarinet, Saxophone & Concert Band
- Bryn Weightman - Percussion/Drum Kit & Marimba

**Every Day Counts**

We all want our students to enjoy a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school!

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don't fall behind. So if your family needs assistance in this regard, please contact the Office and we will arrange for someone to talk to.

**Measles Health Alert**

As you may be aware from recent media reports there is an outbreak of measles in Melbourne. Measles is a highly contagious disease and outbreaks are treated very seriously. Please read link below from Better Health for more information or see your GP.


For this reason, The Department of Education has requested schools check all immunisation records in case of an outbreak. If your child is not immunised or has incomplete immunisations and there is an outbreak, your child may be requested to stay away from school for 2 weeks. If on our school records we do not have a record of Immunisations completed, you will receive a letter asking you to follow up on this. The letter states how to get a certificate if you believe your child's immunisation is up to date. This must be sighted and copied by the office staff to go on our records. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.
2016 Student Charges

A reminder to families that the 2016 Student Charges Notification and are now due and payable. Please refer to the recently distributed Family Statement with a request for payment by March 14th.

See you around the school,

Andrew

‘Dancing Around the World’

Celebrating Harmony Week

We are looking forward to our exciting whole school incursion on Monday March 7th, celebrating Harmony Week. Students will be watching a performance which includes dances from all around the world - Italian, African, Indian, Aboriginal, Turkish, Russian, Spanish, Indian, Greek, Irish, Chinese and more!

Students are encouraged to come dressed on the day in the National clothes or colours of their family’s heritage.
Land Downunder

**Prep-G Dance Concert**

Monday May 2\(^{nd}\) and Tuesday May 3\(^{rd}\)

*A request for help please*

We are looking for some parent/family volunteers who would be available to assist with the organisation of some costume items for our school dance concert.

If you would be available to assist please email me directly
douros.alexandra.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
by Monday March 7th.

Thank-you
Alex Douros 😊
(on behalf of Georgia Lombard – Dance Teacher)

---

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS**

Hi all

**Pink Stumps Day** was a great event once again yesterday. PFA “stumped up” the icy-poles for the children, a lovely treat for a warm day. Thanks to Andrea F for getting the icy-poles, and to all who helped to hand them out.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our first PFA meeting last week. We decided on about nine fundraising and social activities for the first half of this year. These will go to School Council tonight for approval.

**Friday 4 March** will be a big day. Not only is it **Ride2School** day (we’ll be handing out treats before school for all the children who ride or scoot). But it’s also the date of our first big social event, **Welcome Night**. From 6pm to 8pm, please join us on “the Heights” for a picnic with live music as the sun sets. Sausages and drinks will be available for sale, or you can bring your own picnic dinner and drinks.

Remember that **school banking** day is now on **Monday**. Thanks!

Bye for now

Andrea J
RUBBISH FREE LUNCH DAYS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Essex Heights Primary School is proud of Rubbish Free Lunch days. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we ask that your child’s food is wrapper free or that any packaging is recyclable. Ideally, your child’s lunch will only contain items that will be eaten, composted or recycled. Any non-recyclable packaging is to be taken home for disposal.

Reusable containers are a handy way to pack a rubbish free lunch. They also make it easy to buy food and drink in bulk (instead of single-servings) which can save money over time. The Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge is one of Essex Heights Primary School sustainability education initiatives. By participating, students will have a better understanding of how we can take action to reduce our waste. Rubbish Free Lunches also save money and promote healthy eating. On average, a child who has a disposable lunch generates three pieces of rubbish per day, which equals a monstrous 30kg of waste per child per year!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the Rubbish Free Lunch, please don’t hesitate to contact Marita Steward in V5.

Thank you for supporting your child’s participation in Essex Heights Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Dear Parents,

On the 29-2-16 the program will be conducting a Curriculum Day Program. It will operate from 7.00am to 6.00pm. Part of the day will be spent at the Village Cinemas viewing "The Good Dinosaur."

Places for this day are very limited and we are already 50% full. If you require care for this day please enrol early.

Next week the program will start its Easter theme. We have a lot of fun things planned. On Monday Wednesday and Friday we will be decorating foam Easter Bunnies. Tuesday we are doing dance and drama with Georgie and on Thursday we will be doing electronics with Kids Unlimited.

Finally if families have not received their BASC accounts could you please contact me to check the program has your correct email address.

Thank You

Paul Davis

NURSE VISIT - PREPS

Belinda Lock, a visiting primary school nurse from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be attending the school during Term One to conduct the Prep Health Assessments and to see other children as requested by parents or teachers (with parents’ consent)

The purpose of the visit is to provide all Victorian children with the opportunity to have a health assessment; to link children and school communities to services available in the community; and to provide information and advice that promotes health and well-being.

Parents are invited to visit or telephone the visiting primary school nurse if there are any general child health issues they wish to discuss. The contact number for the visiting primary school nurse is 0412 161 470

Parents of students (other than Prep students) that wish their child to be seen by the school nurse need to complete a Referral form that is available at the school office. This completed Referral form needs to be returned to the school office by 11th February 2013.
# ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Information Evening</td>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Information Evening</td>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; PFA Meeting</td>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;RD&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Pink Stumps Cricket Day</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; School Council</td>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Pupil Free day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MARCH 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; Parent Info Night</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; School Photos</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; School Photos</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; School Photos Schools Clean Up Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Harmony Day</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Prep Science Morning 9-11am PFA AGM 7.30-8.30pm</td>
<td>10&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>18&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; Harmony Day</td>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;RD&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Grandparents Day Last day of Term</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Easter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Easter</td>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt; Easter</td>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;TH&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>31&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Photos

Arthur Reid Photographers will be coming to our school, on Thursday the 3rd of March and Friday the 4th of March, to take class and individual photos. By now, each child should have received an envelope with details of the photo selections available to you. If you would like a special photo, such as a family shot or a special group, you will need to go online to Arthur Reid and fill out your choices. The address for this is given in their brochure. This offers security for you and accountability for the company. Whole Year level choir photos will also be taken and are available for purchase. These are often forgotten but as we get closer to showcase are requested. Easier to order now than later.

This is an opportunity to catch a memory for you and your child to look back on in years to come. A school photo speaks volumes, showing friends at school and teachers etc.
Creative Dance Classes 2016
Essex Heights Primary School

After School Dance classes will continue to be offered in 2016 for students in Prep to Year 4 at Essex Heights Primary. Classes take place in the Stadium by Georgia Lombard from Creative Dance and Drama. Prep/Year 1 will be on Tuesdays and Year 2-4 will be on Wednesdays. Class begins at 3.40pm and finishes at 4.25pm.

The Term 1, 2016 Dance program commences on the following dates:

- Prep/1: 6 sessions, $60, Tuesday 16th February
- Year 2-4: 6 sessions, $60, Wednesday 17th 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 an After School Dance form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama
0402 024 891
Healthy Social and Emotional Development in Young Children to Support their Wellbeing

A FREE EVENT FROM THE CITY OF STONNINGTON

Presenter: GLENDA GRUMMET – VIC FACILITATOR KidsMatter EARLY CHILDHOOD

Showing anger in a healthy way. Figuring out conflicts peacefully. Taking care of someone who has been hurt. Waiting patiently. Following rules. Enjoying the company of others.

For young children these social and emotional skills can often be very difficult to learn and understand. Like any skill, young children develop these abilities in small steps over time. Using the KidsMatter Early Childhood Framework, we will explore together what you can do to support your child’s social-emotional development so that they may build healthy relationships with others.

WHEN: Wednesday, 9 March 2016 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

WHERE: Malvern Town Hall - Banquet Room. 1251 High Street, Malvern

Ticket bookings at eventbrite.com.au
St Luke's Twilight FIESTA

Saturday
5th March 2016
2pm 'til 7pm.

94-96 ESSEX RD,
MT WAVERLEY

Market Stalls
Jumping Castle
Gourmet Food
Classic Cars
Plants
Live Music
White Elephant
Animal Farm
Collectables
Books

www.stlukesmtwaverley.unitingchurch.org.au

ESSEX HEIGHTS TENNIS CLUB
OPEN DAY
SUNDAY
MARCH 6TH
1PM - 4PM
COME AND EXPERIENCE LIFE AT OUR CLUB
FREE BBQ | GAMES | PRIZES
DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS:

www.ehtc.com.au
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

INDIVIDUALISED TUTORING/ English & Maths

Naplan results or Reports could be improved?
Every child benefits from one-on-one tutoring to reach their full potential.

Highly qualified and experienced teachers who specialise in Academic Advancement,
Special Needs, ESL, Reading Recovery, Scholarship Exams.
We teach specialised programs that get results for your child.
$50 an hour, once a week, with follow up program.

Clare King 0418 303 574
(BA, Dip Ed, Melb Uni, VIT registered)

Jan King 0417 471 373
(B Ed, Reading Recovery trained)