PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Father's Day Breakfast

What a great celebration of Father’s Day we enjoyed here at Essex Heights this morning with the annual Father’s Day Breakfast held in the Hall. This event, an initiative of the PFA, is a chance for the Dads, Grandads and special friends to visit school and enjoy a wonderful breakfast together. Breakfast was served to over 150 families which is a terrific response.

All of the Dads I spoke to were very appreciative of this opportunity and the children certainly loved it. Not only did they enjoy a great breakfast, but there were also some terrific surprises given away as door prizes or in the raffle. We are most grateful to the local sponsors who provided these raffle items and I direct you to the list in next week’s Contact.

Congratulations and thanks to Betty Ciorciari (President) and Martha Kotsifas (Secretary) and all the wonderful PFA parents and volunteers who worked so hard in gathering prizes, organising the breakfast and setting up for the day.

The children also look forward to the great range of items available for them to buy on Friday at the Father’s Day Stall. They are very excited about their purchases and I’m sure there will be some grateful Dads on Sunday morning. Thanks to Andrea Fyfe for her role in co-ordinating the Stall and to the team who will help sell on Friday. These events are a great example of the way our wonderful PFA works for all the children at Essex Heights PS.

On behalf of the Dads & children, thanks to all those parents who worked so hard on the Breakfast and the Stall. Their names will be included in the PFA News in next week’s Contact.

CALENDAR DATES

Term 3
5th Sept.      Father’s Day Stall
11th Sept.     Footy Colours Days – Yr 6 Fundraiser
11th Sept.     School Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m.
13th Sept.     State Schools Spectacular
16th Sept.     Immigration Museum – Year 6
18th Sept.     Hot Dog Day
19th Sept.     Last day of Term 3 – 2.30 p.m. finish

Term 4
6th October    Term 4 commences
16th October   Prep 2015 – Transition 2
22nd October   PFA Meeting
23rd October   Maths Talent Quest – Award Ceremony
31st October   Showcase 2014 – Robert Blackwood Hall
13th November  Prep 2015 – Transition 3
18th November  Information Eve. - Prep 2015 parents
4th December   Prep 2015 Orientation Day
9th December   Yr 6 Orientation Day at Sec School.
12th December  Yr 6 Graduation Ceremony
19th December  Last day for 2014 – 1.30 p.m. finish
District Athletics

Monday was a very wet day for the Yr 3-6 Athletics Team to compete in the Monash-Waverley District Athletics Carnival at the Bill Sewart Athletics Track.

The children in our team made everyone proud with the way they competed and behaved throughout the day. There were also some outstanding individual results with children placing in an ‘A’ event qualifying for the next level of competition, the Monash/Waverley Division Finals, held in October.

Congratulations to the following children for their individual success:

- Aaron Z. 1500m
- Veronica P. Shot Put
- Petro P. 800m
- Max Z. 1500m
- Declan S. Shot Put, Discus
- Will V. Long Jump
- Riley T. 80m Hurdles
- 11 Year old Boys Relay

Thanks to Ben Wooster for his organisation with the support of the teachers, and to Anita Dix and Lauren Braithwaite for their assistance on the day, along with Pre-service Teachers Samantha & Christine. The children and teachers also appreciated the parents who came along to support their efforts.

Upgraded Reading Resources – Yrs 3 & 4

This year we have focused on upgrading our Yr 3 & 4 reading resources. Our experienced Literacy Intervention teacher Judy McKay has been overseeing this project that has included Guided Reading books for use in the classroom, as well as the Take Home Readers. These are significant resources for teachers to use in developing all important reading skills in the children and their maintenance and upkeep is a time consuming but important task. I would like to thank and acknowledge a great team of parents who have supported this project and worked faithfully week after week to assist Judy with this project. Their names can be found in this weeks’ Contact.

Additionally, I would again like to thank the PFA who committed $5,000 from last year’s fundraising to purchase new and updated reading material. Yet another example of their support for all the children at Essex Heights PS.

See you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal

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

Enrolments for the Vacation Care Program commence on Monday 8th September. Please see me to arrange bookings. 9807 2615.

Thank You
Paul Davis, Co-Ordinator
**PARENTS & FRIENDSNEWS NEWS**

**FATHER'S DAY STALL**
A reminder that Father's day stall will be on tomorrow Friday 5th September. Don’t forget money and plastic bag.

Happy Father’s day to all dads.

**HOT DOG DAY**
There will be a hotdog day on 18th September. Notices should be going home this week.

**HELP REQUIRED !!!!**
Help is required for both the Father’s Day Stall and Hot dog day. Please email ehpfa@gmail.com if you can assist.

Enjoy your weekend
Betty Ciorciari

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**Premier’s Reading Challenge – Finishes 8th September 2014**
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is in its last week. Last date for bringing in the reading list for your teacher to verify is Monday the 8th September.

Can you please assist your child to give their reading list to their teacher on or before Monday. As well as the reading list they need to have all their books logged online so their teacher can compare the lists and verify the books to ensure your child gets a certificate.

Thank you and happy reading!

Kirsten Lightfoot

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**Jeans for Genes**
Thank you so much to everyone for supporting Jeans for Genes Day. We raised a total of $727.15! An amazing effort! Pencils and Pens will still be on sale next week also for $1.

Renae Simpson,
Junior School Council

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**From the Health Centre**
Please be aware that there have been some cases of Slap Cheek around this week. For further information in relation to this, please read the Royal Children’s Hospital website –Kids health info-Slapped Cheek. http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Slapped_cheek_or_Fifth_syndrome/

Please inform the school if your child is diagnosed with Slap Cheek.

Any questions, please ring me,

Julie Zuk
First Aid Officer
Maths Talent Quest

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Maths Talent Quest. They put in a lot of effort and should be very proud of their achievement. Thank you to the families who supported their efforts. In addition, I would like to thank Ms. Jessica Chan who volunteered to judge at the Maths Talent Quest.

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Fuel Economy</td>
<td>Charlotte Douglas</td>
<td>Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Counting on Frank</td>
<td>Inga Griffiths-Hunt</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Mathematics is Everywhere!</td>
<td>Thanh Tran</td>
<td>Encouragement</td>
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The Maths Talent Quest is a terrific competition open to Prep – Year 12 students. Registration for next year will open in April next year and projects must be completed in August. For further information please see http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/activities/student-activities/maths-talent-quest.html The best investigations usually develop from something a student is interested in, so start thinking now!

Thank you
Jenny Austin - Maths Talent Quest Coordinator

AFL Quiz

Congratulations to the two Year 6 teams who made it to the AFL Quiz Finals! Team Masajo: Margaret, Sam P. and Jono from 6D came 6th and Team The Football Kings: Marcus, Declan and Alex N from 6B came 11th.

The AFL Quiz is a national literacy and numeracy quiz based on Australian Rules Football. This is a terrific effort from the Year 6 students.

Jenny Austin - AFL Quiz Coordinator

Middle School Literature Upgrade

This year we are concentrating on all the Grade 3 and 4 Reading Resources, including Guided Reading texts and new Take Home Reading books.

I would like to thank all of the parents who have covered books both at home and school. They are looking great and will last a lot longer by being covered and the books are now being used in the classroom.

I would also like to thank the parents who have attended the Thursday morning Working Bees. During these sessions they have covered and processed books and laminated worksheets. A great big thank you to Martha Kotsifas, Eunice Vuong, Katy Smith, Stephanie Wendler-Canning, Jan Mattrow and Jen Hill who have attended often. Thanks also to Dianna Aleksic who had some free time on a Friday morning and laminated comprehension worksheets.

Special thanks to Eunice and Martha, who have worked many extra hours labelling book boxes and cutting Contact for our books.

We have a regular Working Bee in Violet building on Thursday mornings, so, if you have a few spare moments (or hours) we would love to see some new faces. I am at school on Thursdays and Fridays so if you have any free time on these days, come and see me, there is a lot of work to be done and your help would be greatly appreciated.

Judy McKay - Literacy Co-ordinator
HOLIDAY HOME REQUIRED FOR GUINEA PIGS

Two of the Guinea pigs who live in Banksia Building are looking for a place to spend the September holidays. Cannot be separated.

If you think you would like to have them stay at your place, please contact Marita Steward in 5S (B5) to let her know. Partial holiday lettings will also be considered.

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.

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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>5th Sept</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Helen Giakoumatos, Jing Zhang, Andrea Jordan</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>8th Sept</td>
<td>11.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Nicole Carman</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>10th Sept</td>
<td>10.15 a.m.</td>
<td>Andrea Fyfe, Nicky Edwards, Erika Tale</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>12th Sept</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Katy Smith, Poojar Kelkar, Anusha Chander</td>
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Tax Help program 2014

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) offers a range of information and services to help people from diverse backgrounds understand tax in Australia. Information is available in English, as well as in other languages.

For some people, including those new to Australia, this year will be their first time lodging a tax return. One of the services the ATO offers is Tax help.

Tax help is a network of community volunteers who help people complete their tax returns during tax time. This is a free and confidential service. Volunteers are fully trained, accredited and supported by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

These volunteers are people from within the community who give up their time each year. They are not ATO staff, but they receive training and support from the ATO.

Tax Help is suitable for people with simple tax affairs who earn around $50,000 a year or less. Volunteers operate from 1 July until 31 October in all capital cities and many regional areas across Australia from convenient locations in the community. To find out if you are eligible for Tax Help, please visit: https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Lodging-your-tax-return/In-detail/Getting-help/Tax-Helpprogram/

Free information sessions for CALD communities on how to vote

ON Saturday 29 November 2014 Victoria will be holding a State election. The Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship (OMAC) and the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) are working together to deliver seminars on how to vote.

The FREE sessions will include information on how to enrol to vote, the three levels of government in Australia, who represents you in government and how to vote correctly.

Your vote will help shape Victoria. Information is available in languages other than English. For more information, please visit: https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/
**Prep Transition 2**  
**Numeracy** - Children will participate in fun mathematics in the Prep Rooms. On this day we ask you to bring your child to the School Hall again. Children should bring a named, filled water bottle.  
**Parent Session** – School Readiness  
**Thursday 16th October, 2014**  
11.45 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

**Prep Transition 3**  
**Literacy** – Book your child in for fun with Literacy in the Prep rooms. This session will be run by the Prep Teachers. Bring your child to the School Hall to find out which classroom your child will visit today. Children should bring a named, filled water bottle.  
**Parent Session** – Meet School community representatives, PFA and School Council.  
**Thursday 13th November, 2014**  
11.45 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

**Parent Information Evening - Prep 2015**  
For parents of children **ENROLLED** for Essex Heights Primary School who will be commencing Prep in 2015. This will be an opportunity for the 2015 Prep team to inform parents about:  
- Start of year procedures  
- What your child needs to bring to school  
- A typical Prep day.  
Child care available.  
Please R.S.V.P. by 14th November, 2014  
**Tuesday 18th November, 2014**  
7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

**Orientation Day**  
Children are to bring playlunch and lunch today as well as a drink and hat. Session will include playtime with Year 5 buddies. Children can be dropped off ready for a 9.30 a.m. start and parents will then collect them at 1.00 p.m. An opportunity for last minute shopping!  
**Thursday 4th December, 2014**  
9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

**Bookings are requested for ALL sessions.**  
To register your attendance, please ring the school Office on **9807 4944** or email the school **essex.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au**  

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**Contact Information**  
**Essex Road, Mount Waverley, Vic. 3149**  
**Phone:** 9807 4944  
**Email:** essex.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au  
**Web:** www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au
Being a great dad

Many dads tell me that they want a better relationship with their children, particularly their sons, than they had with their own fathers.

1. Spend time with your sons
A dad can do little wrong in the eyes of a young boy. From around the age of five years a boy thinks his dad is like superman. Ironically, he may give his mum a hard time at this stage. Dads need to spend as much time with their sons in these impressionable years as possible. They just need to be careful not to push their sons too hard or turn every game into a lesson. That’s when boys turn off their dads.

2. Support your partner
Fathers may play an integral part in the lives of their children but they also have a profound effect on the quality of mothering that children receive. There is little doubt that a woman who can share the emotional and financial burdens of child-rearing with a supportive partner is more likely to be a loving, affirming mother. Supportive fathering is one of the keys to better mothering.

3. Treat your daughters well
There are strong links between close fathering and the healthy development of girls. Dads teach their daughters strong lessons about how they should be treated by men. So dads need to treat their daughters respectfully so they learn to expect this treatment in their future relationships with men.

4. Say goodbye Superman, hello Clarke Kent
Adolescent boys are programmed to challenge their fathers. It’s part of the growing up process. Australian author John Marsden refers to this phenomenon as the ‘old ram, young ram syndrome’. He’s right. It’s a type of rite of passage that plays out in many Australian homes. Verbal jousting matches are a popular father-son game where boys take great delight in proving their fathers are fallible. A dad at this stage needs a sense of humour as well as a willingness to stand back and allow other mentors to influence his son’s life.

5. Don’t whine out on discipline
Dads are traditionally the kings of play, but they can go missing when it comes to discipline. They get their kids excited in a game before going to bed, then expect their partner to settle them down. It helps if both parents can take their share of managing children’s behaviour.

6. Find something in common with your kids
Dads need something in common with their children. They need better when they have a shared interest or shared passion with their kids. Many men relate to their kids while being active, and teach many important lessons through games and play. But if sport is not your bag, find something else that you and your kids have in common. A common interest is a great help for fathers who live apart from their kids who are looking to maximise the time they have with them.

7. Change as your child changes
Kids grow up at the speed of light and change before you know it. They’re kids one day and teenagers the next. They can catch many fathers unaware. The most effective dads are those who change their parenting to suit the needs of their kids at each stage of development, rather than stubbornly hold to outmoded ideas of how they think their kids should be.

Those fathers who are little apprehensive or lack sufficient confidence should be involved in as many aspects of parenting as they can. The best way to learn about parenting is by doing it. Children are a terrific resource for fathers - men can learn about children from children themselves. By being alert, watchful and learning to listen to their children, fathers can learn all they need to know about parenting.
**SEPTEMBER 2014**

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<td>Preps – Zoo Exc Yr 1 – Mini Beasts</td>
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**NOVEMBER 2014**

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**DECEMBER 2014**

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| 31st     | 1st       | 2nd        | 3rd       | 4th      | 5th       | 12th   |
| 13th     | 14th      | 15th       | 16th      | 17th     | 18th      | 19th   |
NET SET GO! Spring 2014
Learn the basic fundamental skills of netball at Waverley District Netball Association, corner Farmer St & Cassinia Ave, Ashwood on Saturday mornings between 8 and 9am. Cost is $95. Season commences 6 September and concludes 6 December. For further information contact Fiona Schifferle on 0414 856 264 or visit www.wdna.com.au