PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Land Down Under’ Dance Concert

What an outstanding two nights of entertainment we have enjoyed. I am sure you will all agree that our second ever dance program and concert was a great success. I think we have achieved our aims of providing an additional program for the children as they learnt and mastered their dance number. This was then complemented by the invaluable opportunity to perform in costume, on stage before an appreciative audience. The benefits to children from these performing arts activities are significant in terms of confidence, self-esteem and enjoyment. Whilst some children have the chance to participate in these types of activities outside of school, we wanted to provide that opportunity for all children to enjoy this experience.
Well done to the stars of the show, the children! They have worked really hard over the eight weeks of the program and there were many proud family members who thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Congratulations to Georgia Lombard our fantastic Dance Teacher for the way she has taught and prepared the children. As you will appreciate, this is a significant amount of work to pull together a performance such as this, and Georgia has done this superbly.

Thanks to the Essex Heights Staff who have supported this event and worked behind the scenes in preparation, and in supervision on the night. Particular thanks to Alex Douros who worked really hard in the administration and coordination role and was super organised, ensuring two successful evenings.

Finally, to the parents who prepared their children, arranged costumes and provided the audience. Particular thanks to those mums mentioned in the program for extra work on costumes, and those who took on photography roles so we could record the evening’s events.

Yet another wonderful celebration for the Essex Heights community!

**Essex Heights Mother’s Day Breakfast**

It was great to attend the third Mother’s Day Breakfast this morning. We had over four hundred Mums and children come to school for breakfast to celebrate Mother’s Day. There was a great atmosphere in the Hall and the Mums and kids enjoyed the fact that the Dads were organising and serving them for a change.

Thanks this year to Tristan Rogers accepted the challenge to coordinate the morning. He was joined by about 15 other Dads who helped him organise and serve the breakfast. Thanks to the sponsors who supported this event for our community. Thanks also to some PFA Mums who also worked behind the scenes and kept an eye on the Dads! 😊

Thanks also to our wonderful PFA who have planned and organised the ‘Mother’s Day Stall’ for tomorrow. The children love being able to shop for their Mums and take great care over their gift selections. Thanks especially to Stef Wendler-Canning, Wilhelmina Jansen and Andrea Fyfe who have coordinated this event.

We wish all the Mums a very Happy Mother’s Day on Sunday!
NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) involves students in Years 3 and 5 from all states and territories in Australia. NAPLAN testing will take place on **Tuesday 10th May, Wednesday 11th May and Thursday 12th May**. Students’ skills in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy will be assessed. These national test results provide information on how your child is progressing and performing in the key areas of literacy and numeracy and also help to support improvements in teaching to benefit your child. Parents can support their children to be ready to participate in these assessment tasks by facilitating a smooth, calm start to each day. Simple tasks such as ensuring that students have breakfast before coming to school and that they arrive to school on time can make a big difference. Two correct answers can be the difference between medium growth and high growth and a good start to the day and plenty of sleep throughout the week can be enough to help your child achieve their best.

Class Visit – Indonesian

Last week I was very pleased to spend some time with Alex ‘Bu’ Douros and the children of 3CW in the Indonesian Room. Our Languages - Indonesian program continues to be an important part of our ‘specialist program’, building the children’s cultural knowledge and language skills.

Bu Douros began with an Indonesian song on YouTube that will be part of the upcoming Indonesian Language Competition. She then introduced the children to an activity that required them to work in a team of four to draft sentences with randomly selected words. They were scored according to; grammatical correctness, complexity, creativity and bonus points for teamwork. I was greatly impressed by the children’s ability to construct some quite complex sentences using only their knowledge and posters around the room. They also demonstrated great cooperation and teamwork as they worked together on the task.

Thanks to Alex for her great work in continuing to build a strong Languages program. Thanks also for her leadership across the school as a Member of the Leadership Team, and her work in supporting colleagues in a Coaching role.

It’s Not OK to Be Late For School

Getting to school late can impact greatly on your child’s education. At present we are noticing a number of students arriving late at school on a regular basis. Students arriving late to school can have an effect on the teacher, other students in their class and themselves in the following ways:
Latecomers:
- distract other students when they arrive
- miss out on talking to their class teacher before school
- miss out on playing with other children before school
- miss out on setting up and organisation time
- may be marked absent on the roll and may miss out on having money and notices collected
- miss out on hearing what’s happening in the day ahead
- are often unsure about what they have to do in a lesson and that may mean the teacher has to repeat instructions and give extra attention to the latecomer
- tend to not value punctuality
- miss out on valuable teacher instruction time
- can arrive at their classroom and find their grade at a specialist class or elsewhere in the school
- particularly miss out on discussions and valuable reading, writing and mathematics learning time in the mornings

Essex Heights PS teachers really appreciate and value student punctuality.

Congratulations to the vast majority of our families on having your children here on time. Keep up the great work! We understand it’s not always an easy task in the morning!

**Compass for Parents**

Recently you would have received your family login details for the Compass Parent Portal. As outlined in the accompanying bulletin, this will improve and streamline communication and administrative tasks between home and school. I would encourage you to check regularly as we will increasingly use Compass for notices and communications from school.

To date, a little over half of the Essex Heights Families have logged in to view the Compass portal. **I would encourage all families to do this as soon as possible to become familiar with the process.**

Ultimately, all notices will be emailed and posted on Compass, thereby reducing the need for paper notes to be sent home with the children. Initially we will provide both, as families get used to the new system, but eventually we will phase out hard copies. We will also be posting Contact on the Compass News bulletin board (as well as the school website) each week. Please note that you can download an app for tablets and smartphones, ‘Compass School Manager’.
**Prep Enrolments 2017**

I am very busy at the moment with school tours for prospective families to join us in 2017 and beyond. If you have children who will be starting Preps at Essex Heights in 2017, please ensure an enrolment form is lodged at the Office by the end of this Term. This will enable us to begin planning for next year.

See you around the school,

Andrew

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**Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2016**

Once again students from across Victoria have a chance to take part in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge in 2016. The students of Essex Heights have been participating in this since it began and we see it as a means of promoting the importance of reading among students in our school. This year the Victorian Government is encouraging families and parents to be more involved with supporting children’s reading, in and beyond school. Before the end of term your child will bring home a permission form for the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Successful Challengers receive a Certificate in Term 4. For your child be awarded the certificate, you will need to sign the permission form. There is no charge for the certificate. Student’s names will also be published in an edition of the Sunday Age if you give permission.

Let’s keep up the Essex Heights tradition of being ambassadors for the Reading Challenge in 2016. Attached to the newsletter is a letter from the Premier, Daniel Andrew’s promoting not only the Premier’s Reading Challenge but also the benefits of instilling a love of reading in your child.

Please return the permission form to your class teacher as soon as possible so that your child can get started on their personal challenge.
Hi all

What a lovely Mother’s Day breakfast we had this morning. Special thanks to Tristan and everyone who helped.

If you can, please drop in to the Mother’s Day stall tomorrow and lend a hand. You can sign up at tinyurl.com/ehps-mums (but don’t worry if you haven’t – just come along).

Our main fundraiser for 2016, the Fun Run, is next Wednesday. Please encourage your kids to raise some money. It’s great for them to contribute to a community goal. If we reach our school goal of $10,000, the kids will get to have some special fun with Mr Wooster and Mr Crossett. I can’t wait!

Please get in touch (ehpspfa@gmail.com) if you’d like to help sponsor or donate to the Trivia Night. For trivia night details, see the notice later in Contact. Tickets are now available at trybooking.com/LISP!

The next secondhand uniform stall is on Wednesday 18 May in the Stadium (3–3:45pm): help gratefully received from 2:30pm. Donations can be left at the office or in the lost property boxes (but no items with the old logo please).

Special thanks to Georgia, Alex and all the staff who worked so hard to bring this week’s dance concerts to life. They were great nights and we appreciate it very much.

I hope you enjoy your Mother’s Day: either being spoiled or spoiling someone special.

Andrea J
MOTHER’S DAY STALL

When: Friday 6\textsuperscript{th} May
Where: School Hall
What to bring: Money & a carry bag

Mother’s Day gifts range from $1 to $6

The PFA are looking for helpers on the day. Any amount of time you can offer would be appreciated. Please register your details and availability at tinyurl.com/ehps-mums or email Stef sscanning10@gmail.com or Andrea aifyfe@optusnet.com.au. Morning tea will be provided. Thanks from Stef & Andrea.
Thank you to all the students who entered the ARISS Competition to interview an astronaut. The entries were excellent and it was very difficult to select 11 students. Thank you to Andrew Crossett, Ina Kuehlich, Marita Steward and Janet McGinn for being on the selection panel. The following students were selected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Ava Thomas Orlando Marcus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Isabelle Simon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Amber Jake Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Natalie Tomasz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NASA Websites

NASA Kids Club  
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/home/index.html

For students in grades K to 4:  
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/home/index.html

For students in grades 5 to 8:  
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/index.html

Watch the International Space Station pass overhead
The space station looks like an airplane or a very bright star moving across the sky, except it doesn’t have flashing lights or change direction. It will also be moving considerably faster than a typical airplane (airplanes generally fly at about 965 kilometres per hour; the space station flies at 28,160 kilometres per hour).

Below is a time-lapse photo of the space station moving across the sky.
When do I Spot The Station?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>May 5, 6:53 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>May 6, 6:01 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>May 6, 7:38 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 7, 6:44 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>May 7, 7:08 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>May 8, 5:52 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>May 9, 6:37 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>May 10, 5:44 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>May 16, 7:45 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>May 17, 6:03 PM</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

All sightings will occur within a few hours before or after sunrise or sunset. This is the optimum viewing period as the sun reflects off the space station and contrasts against the darker sky.

For more information [https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/](https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/)

Jenny Austin
ARISS Coordinator

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BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Dear Parents,

On the 5/5/16 Before Care will operate out of the Eucalyptus building due to the Mother’s Day Breakfast.

Next week at Aftercare we have Dance & Drama back on Tuesday nights and Morse Code with Kids Unlimited on Thursday.

We will also be making blossoming paper flowers with Sharanda. At Before Care on Friday we will be cooking Chocolate Yo-Yo biscuits.

Thank You

Paul Davis
Sayembara Lisan: State-wide annual Indonesian Oral Competition

It is great to have a total of 31 children from Years 1-6 who are participating in this year’s competition! Please note that entries for the competition are now closed.

Date: Saturday May 14th (students will have an allocated time on this day) (Finals: Saturday June 11th. Children who do particularly well on Saturday May 14th will be invited to participate in the Finals, before state winners are announced).

Venue: Heany Park Primary School
Buckingham Drive
Rowville

Just a reminder that students need to please be practising at home 😊

Song/poem links for Years Prep-4 are below.

Prep/Year 1/Year 2 song links
Balonku – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLSEtNEmhTc
Pelangi – pelangi - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3wMjOlhvuE

Year 3/Year 4 poem links
Hai Becak – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kveyDKwSTgY
Kapal Api - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3dpiGKqvY

Some interesting reading……
‘Why Learn Indonesian’
Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2016

Once again students from across Victoria have a chance to take part in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge in 2016. The students of Essex Heights have been participating in this since it began and we see it as a means of promoting the importance of reading among students in our school. This year the Victorian Government is encouraging families and parents to be more involved with supporting children’s reading, in and beyond school. Before the end of term your child will bring home a permission form for the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. Successful Challengers receive a Certificate in Term 4.

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Please return the permission form to your class teacher as soon as possible so that your child can get started on their personal challenge.

CANTEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>9th May</th>
<th>Stephanie Wendler-Canning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>11th May</th>
<th>Connie Leong, Jessica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.15 a.m.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>13th May</th>
<th>Richelle Mil, Sherry Rui Li, Karen Zhang</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.15 a.m.</td>
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</table>

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. Any queries phone Maria on 0409 934 573
Please collect the bins from driveway behind art room. Check the gate and if the gate is locked please use alternate gate. Please space the bins out for the driver. The bins need to go out Sunday night as collection times vary on the Monday morning. Alternately they cannot go out on Sat as we may receive a fine or worse still the bins may fall over!!

Please see Marita Steward V7 after adding your name to the roster. The roster is kept at the Front Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FAMILY</th>
<th>SPECIAL NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 21/2</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1 6/3</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1 20/3</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Holiday</td>
<td>Thomas family</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 17/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 1/5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 15/5</td>
<td>Angela Millan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 29/5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 12/6</td>
<td>Angela Millan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2 26/6</td>
<td>Angela Millan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Holiday Sun 10th July</td>
<td>Thomas family</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 24/7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 7/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 21/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 4/9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 18/9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Holiday Sun 20th Sept</td>
<td>Thomas family</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 2/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 16/10</td>
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<td>Term 4 30/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 13/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 27/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4 11/12</td>
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### ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### MAY 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>2(^{nd}) Dance Concert</td>
<td>3(^{rd}) Dance Concert</td>
<td>4(^{th})</td>
<td>5(^{th}) Mother’s Day Breakfast</td>
<td>6(^{th}) Mother’s Day Stall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9(^{th})</td>
<td>10(^{th})</td>
<td>11(^{th}) School Fun Run School Council</td>
<td>12(^{th})</td>
<td></td>
<td>13(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>16(^{th})</td>
<td>17(^{th})</td>
<td>18(^{th})</td>
<td>19(^{th})</td>
<td>20(^{th}) Walk to School Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23(^{rd})</td>
<td>24(^{th}) District Cross Country</td>
<td>25(^{th}) PFA meeting 7.30pm Staffroom</td>
<td>26(^{th})</td>
<td>27(^{th})</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30(^{th}) Pupil Free Day</td>
<td>31(^{st})</td>
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#### JUNE 2016

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6(^{th}) Yr 5 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
<td>7(^{th}) Yr 5 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
<td>8(^{th}) Yr 5 Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
<td>9(^{th}) School Council</td>
<td>10(^{th})</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13(^{th}) Queens Birthday Public Holiday</td>
<td>14(^{th})</td>
<td>15(^{th})</td>
<td>16(^{th})</td>
<td>17(^{th})</td>
<td></td>
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<td>20(^{th})</td>
<td>21(^{st})</td>
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<td>29(^{th})</td>
<td>30(^{th})</td>
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</table>
Community Notice Board

Products & services advertised in Contact are placed on a paid basis and are not necessarily being promoted by Essex Heights Primary School.

An Essex Heights Primary School Event

Trivia Night 2016

Prizes Fun!
Games Silent auction Dancing

Saturday 4 June at 7pm in the Essex Heights PS hall

Tickets on sale now

$15 per adult | Tables of 8-10 people

Book at trybooking.com/LJSP

Get a table together, or we can find you some friends
BYO drinks and nibbles | Tea and coffee provided
Bring some gold coins for games on the night 😊

No children allowed sorry
New Saturday morning classes
9am – 10:15am    or   10:30 – 11:45am
Ashwood Hall
21a Electra Ave  Ashwood

Expert tuition by experienced, registered primary teacher
Improve your child’s confidence
Catch up and extension work
Small groups and fun learning activities
Problem solving, number facts & times tables
Covering all areas of the Victorian mathematics curriculum
Catering for all ability levels

Enrol Now
For bookings and further information contact:
Domenic De Leo  0439 803 430
primaryskillstutoring@gmail.com
The NEW 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Book and Digital Memberships are available now and are packed with thousands of up to 50% OFF and 2-for-1 offers.

From every Membership we sell, 20% of the proceeds go towards our fundraising for ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL. The more Memberships we sell, the closer we get to our goal – so please forward this email to all your family and friends!

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