CALENDAR DATES

Term 1, 2016

8th February  
School Council Election Notification

15th February  
Second Hand Uniform Sale 3-3.45 - Stadium

15th February  
Close of School Council Nominations

15th February  
Parent Teacher Discussions 4-8pm

16th February  
Parent Teacher Discussions 4-8pm

17th February  
PFA Meeting 7.30pm

24th February  
Pink Stumps Cricket Match Council Oval 11.30-1.30

25th February  
School Council 7.30 – Staff Room

29th February  
Pupil Free Day No Students Attend

1st March  
Parent Information Night Prep – Year 3, 6-7pm

1st March  
Parent Information Night Year 4 – 6, 7-8pm

3rd March  
School Photographs

4th March  
School Photographs

4th March  
Schools Clean-up Day

7th March  
Harmony Day - Incursion

14th March  
Public Holiday – Labour Day

15-18th March  
Yr 6 Camp

24th March  
Grandparents & Special Friends Day 11.30-2pm

24th March  
Last Day - Term 1 2.30 Dismissal

11th April  
First Day - Term 2

PRINCIPALS’ REPORT

Great First Week!

Throughout this week I have had the pleasure of visiting many of your children in their classrooms and specialist programs. I could not be more pleased with the atmosphere of calm and productive endeavour evident throughout the school. The teachers’ focus has been on reintroducing our ‘Essex Heights Values’ and the ‘Expectations & Behaviours’ for each classroom. They have also been aiming to build strong relationships and establish a positive environment, and I have certainly seen that in operation.

It was also wonderful to see students who are new to Essex Heights (25 in total) being welcomed into the school and to see all children playing safely and cooperatively in the playground.

This great start certainly points to a positive and exciting year ahead for all in the Essex Heights community.

Planning and Preparation for 2016

On Wednesday of last week, all teaching and non teaching staff were involved in planning and preparation for the year ahead. We began with a meeting for all staff with a focus on some of the key initiatives and programs for 2016. As we continue with our Strategic Plan 2015 -2018 (available on the website) it is important that all staff are aware and committed to the goals and direction it provides. Staff then spent time in Team Meetings and in classrooms making sure all was in readiness for the children to begin on Thursday.

I thank the teaching, support staff, office staff and cleaning team for their efforts in making our start as smooth as possible. Furthermore it has been fabulous to have Paul Davis and the team at our Holiday Program providing an enjoyable experience for the many students and families who have relied on this service during the last three weeks.
New Preps

Last Friday our 75 Prep students commenced with all that enthusiasm and energy that is so infectious in a school. Our Prep team of Natalie Zaibak & Pam Rowler, Kristi Lloyd, Melanie Boyle and Lisa Carne, together with a number of specialist and support staff welcomed our students and parents as they began their journey at Essex Heights. It was also really pleasing to note the many new families who are joining us here at Essex for the first time; we extend a special welcome to them. Thanks to the many Essex Heights parents who have assisted in welcoming our new Prep families to this friendly community. During the coming Wednesdays our Prep staff will be conducting literacy and numeracy assessments with our students in preparation for the year ahead so the Prep children will not be attending school on that day.

This week I also enjoyed a visit from each of our Prep classes as they participated in a tour of the Admin area on Tuesday. They squeezed into my Office and proceeded to touch and poke everything on my desk. They had many questions to ask including ...... "Do you sleep here Mr Crossett?" 😊

Children from Prep ZR and Prep C in my Office ..... ‘helping me work’

Educational Contributions 2016

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.

Student Leadership Positions

Our Year 6 students play a pivotal role in this area and we expect to formally present badges to our School Captains, House Captains and other Leadership positions on 22nd of February. We are pleased to have our local State Parliament Member, Michael Gidley to join us for that Assembly to make the presentations. (Please see the list of the 2016 Student Leaders later in Contact.)

Similarly we look forward to continuing the great work undertaken by our Junior School Council and will have positions announced later in the month. Our Junior School Council comprises representatives from Years 3-6. Additionally, all students in Year 6 will be given opportunities for leadership and development. An important part of this approach is the development of public speaking skills in all students. We look forward to our students working with us to conduct Assemblies and perform other duties in the year ahead.

Parent Information Evenings

We have scheduled a Parent Information Evening for Tuesday, March 1st. This year we are changing the format slightly and detailed information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

We have invited an Educational Psychologist and Parent Educator, Chris Daicos, to address the first part of the evening. Chris will talk to parents on the important topic of Building Resilience in Children. This will then be followed by classroom visits, meeting with the teachers to discuss matters relating to the particular year level.

Two sessions are planned:
Prep – Yr 3 – 6:00 – 7:30pm
Yr 4 – Yr 6 – 6:45 – 8:30pm
Parent/Teacher Discussions

These have been scheduled for Monday, February 15th and Tuesday February 16th. 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. Information will be forwarded shortly.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

An early notification to let Grandparents and Special Friends know that we are planning their annual visiting day to school for Thursday, March 24th, 11:30am – 2:00pm including a picnic lunch. This is the last day of Term 1 and we will provide more details closer to the time.

Updating Medical Information

It is important for families to consider any changed medical needs of their children and ensure that we have up to date records regarding asthma, anaphylaxis, allergies or other conditions that may impact on the children at school. Please contact our First Aid Officer, Julie Zuk, via the Office to discuss these or any other related medical notifications.

Active Travel

Essex Heights has a strong culture of ‘active travel’ with many children walking, riding and scooting to school. A reminder to families to discuss ‘safe riding’ practices with the children. It is also a good idea for parents to arrange locks on valuable bikes as the Bike Shed is not under direct supervision during the day. A reminder to all children that bikes and scooters are to be walked in the school ground as a matter of safety for all children.

Student Illness and Accidents

At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details. Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other Insurance available? Yes.
There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found Online or through your Insurance Broker.

Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property

On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the DET does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Looking forward to seeing you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
# STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR 2016

## School Captains
- Anjali Sharma
- Lynn Ng
- Chris Ciorciari
- Blair Pengelly

## Music Captains
- Rebecca Lee
- Celene Hsiao
- Isaac Spowart

## Library Captains
- Lea Wendler - Canning
- Kyra Hatzikosmidis
- Alex Yu
- Daniel Vuong

## Art Captains
- Sarah Cooke
- Georgette Iliopoulos
- Vaijayanti Kelkar
- Marvin Ongsawasd

## Sustainability & Environment Captains
- Alex Kalathas
- Tarun Rao
- Jehan Pilay

## Indonesian Captains
- Caitlyn Duri
- Ashleigh Perkin

## Sports Captains
- **BOYD**
  - Keerie Iliopoulos
  - Seneth Kariyawasam

- **DRYSDALE**
  - Imogen Thomas
  - Ranu Perera

- **LINDSAY**
  - Deanna Tzevakos
  - Patrick O’Mara

- **NOLAN**
  - Carolyn Brokas
  - Tom Pluciennik

## Parents and Friends News

Hi everyone

Welcome to 2016! I hope you had a good break from the routine, and perhaps managed to get to a beach for at least a little while.

For those of you who are new to Essex Heights, I’m the president of our Parents and Friends Association (PFA). Open to anyone (please, come and join us!), the PFA raises funds to improve our school, and runs social activities for both parents and children. It’s a fun way to help the children and staff, and is great for getting to know a few of the other parents around the place. You can contact us any time at ehpspfa@gmail.com. Look out for a membership form coming home soon.

Our first **secondhand uniform stall** will be held in the stadium on Monday 15 February from 3pm to 3:45pm. We would love some help from 2:30pm. Donations of uniforms can be left at the office or in the lost property boxes (put the items in a bag marked “donation”). But no old logo items please.

The first **PFA meeting** of the year will be held on Wednesday 17 February in the staff room at 7:30pm. Everyone’s welcome, so please come along.

Cheerio

Andrea J
CHILDREN WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

Essex Heights Primary School has a number of children who suffer from severe life threatening food allergies known as anaphylaxis. Any food can cause anaphylaxis but generally these foods account for 90% of all reactions: Peanuts, Tree Nuts, Shellfish, Fish, Milk, Egg, Sesame, Soy and Wheat.

Any food brought into the school can have serious consequences to children at risk. We ask parents, students and staff to be sensitive to the critical needs of these children at school who have severe food allergies.

Due to the large number of children with nut allergies we request that nuts, foods that contain nuts and nut products such as Nutella and peanut butter are not consumed at school at any time.

If food is brought in to share for a birthday or special occasion, please speak to the teacher and provide the teacher with a printed list of ingredients before distributing.

Parents of children with food allergies may choose to provide an alternative “treat “to be kept with the class teacher for these occasions.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
Julie Zuk
First Aid Officer

ESSEX HEIGHTS NETBALL CLUB

Essex Heights Netball Club is looking for girls and boys in Years 3 & 6 who would like to play netball on Saturday mornings at Ashwood Netball Courts. Training is on Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:30pm, at the school netball courts starting Thursday 4 February. For further information please contact Rosemary Gillespie on 0408 070 435.

++++++++++++++++SCHOOLBANKING+++++++++++++++++++

Welcome and welcome back to all future and current bankers. We enjoyed banking with the children last year and also achieved a fantastic result for the school. Our school received $4.060 in commission from the bank last year. This money becomes part of the PFA fund raising funds and benefits the children in lots of ways in their school life. We have already signed up about 28 new students for this year which is very exciting.

BANKING DAY is NOW: MONDAY

SCHOOL BANKING COMPETITION 2016: bank at least 15 times by the end of term 3 this year and go into the drawer to win a trip to Australia Zoo for a family of 5 to meet Bindi and Robert Irwin.

For all new students or anyone who would like to join the program here is how it works:
1. Get youth saver account from the Commonwealth Bank. You can open an account directly at any Commonwealth Bank by taking your child’s birth certificate and your driver’s license to the bank or online if you are already a customer yourself.

2. Once you have an account number your child can now make deposits through the school by bringing the filled in deposit slip in the yellow pouch to school each Friday. Please make sure you include the exact money. If you have an account number but no deposit book or pouch please see me or send me a note on Friday and I will arrange one for you.

3. Your child earns a silver coin for every deposit made. When your child has earned 10 silver tokens we will swap the 10 tokens for 1 gold token which your child can keep. They also qualify for a little gift from the bank for every 10 deposits they make. The gifts for this year are on a reward card. Your child picks a gift, fills out that part of the reward card and sends it back to us.

4. The school receives a commission of 5% of all deposits made through the school (up to deposits of $200) and $5 for every new banker.

We hope the gifts encourage your children to become weekly bankers and get into the habit of saving regularly. Also, please remember the bank only gives your child the bonus interest rate if they bank at least once a month.

If you have questions or would like to help with banking please email Stef on sscanning10@gmail.com

The School banking team.

Thank you to all the people who have already responded to join the “canteen volunteers”. More people are still required. Rosters will be finalised and sent out soon, so if you want to be part of the fun, please get your application in A.S.A.P.

Lunch orders will be available tomorrow, Friday 5th February.

2016 Menus will be out soon, but in the meantime use the 2015 menus.

ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Calendar

FEBRUARY /MARCH 2016

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<th>Monday</th>
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| 15<sup>TH</sup> | Information Evening  
Second Hand Uniform sale                                               |
| 16<sup>TH</sup> | Information Evening                                                  |
| 17<sup>TH</sup> | PFA Meeting                                                          |
| 18<sup>TH</sup> |                                                                   |
| 19<sup>TH</sup> |                                                                   |
| 22<sup>nd</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 23<sup>RD</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 24<sup>TH</sup>  | Pink Stumps Cricket Day                                              |
| 25<sup>TH</sup>  | School Council                                                       |
| 26<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 28<sup>TH</sup>  | Pupil Free day                                                       |
| 1<sup>ST</sup>   |                                                                   |
| 2<sup>ND</sup>   | Parent Info Night                                                    |
| 3<sup>rd</sup>   | School Photo’s                                                       |
| 4<sup>TH</sup>   | School Photo’s Clean Up Day                                          |
| 7<sup>TH</sup>   | Harmony Day                                                          |
| 9<sup>TH</sup>   |                                                                   |
| 10<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 11<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 14<sup>TH</sup>  | Labour Day Public Holiday                                            |
| 15<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 16<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 17<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 18<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 21<sup>ST</sup>  | Harmony Day                                                          |
| 22<sup>ND</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 23<sup>RD</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 24<sup>TH</sup>  | Grandparents Day                                                    |
| 25<sup>TH</sup>  | Easter                                                               |
| 28<sup>TH</sup>  | Easter                                                               |
| 29<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 30<sup>TH</sup>  |                                                                   |
| 31<sup>ST</sup>  |                                                                   |
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Prep/1</th>
<th>6 sessions</th>
<th>$60</th>
<th>Tuesday 16th February</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2-4</td>
<td>6 sessions</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th February</td>
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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
Registration Day
7th February 2016

When: Sunday 7th February 2016
Where: St Michael’s Primary School, 268 High Street, Ashburton
Time: 4 pm – 6 pm
Schedule:
4.15 pm: Mininews/GoalKick U04 - U06
4.30 pm: U07
4.45 pm: Small Sided Football U08 - U11
5.00 pm: Juniors U12 - U16
5.15 pm: Girls Football
5.30 pm: Goalkeeping
Activities for children, uniform shop open for orders
Register: www.myfootballclub.com.au

DADS MATTER

WHAT KIDS REALLY NEED FROM THEIR DADS

- Do you want to learn why dads matter to their kids and their development?
- Interested in learning ways to talk to your children that are effective?
- Would you like to learn how to develop rules and consequences that work?
- Do you want to learn why children behave as they do?
Join us and other dads to share ideas and information around these and other issues.

FREE WEDNESDAY GROUP

WHO: Dads of children under 12
DATE: Feb 24th to March 23rd 2016
TIME: 7 pm to 9 pm
VENUE: Mulgrave Neighbourhood House
36 – 42 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

For further information and booking contact:
Kim 9735 4188 or Margaret 9546 3311
anglicarevic.org.au

YOUR CHILDREN ARE AMAZING ALREADY.
WE JUST HELP THEM PROVE IT.

From Prep to Year 10, NumberWorks’nWords after-school tuition brings out the best in Aussie students by:
- tailoring lessons according to each individual’s needs
- setting achievable goals and monitoring their progress
- developing our own programmes using only qualified Maths and English experts

Maths & English FREE ASSESSMENT
BOOK NOW!

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Glen Waverley 9574 9964
numberworks@nwords.com

Specialist Maths tuition and English tuition
Free Tennis Open Day

Sunday 7th February
11.00am to 2.00pm

- Free Intro Tennis Lessons
- Jumping Castle
- Free court usage
- Sausage Sizzle
- Adults & Kids welcome
- Demo racquets & Ball machine
- Club Membership Specials
- If you can not make it on the day contact us to try tennis at another time

Come & play tennis at one of Melbourne’s premier tennis clubs.

Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club
260 High St Road Mt Waverley
www.gleniristennis.org.au