

## CALENDAR

### November

Fri 13 ..... Parent Opinion Survey closes  
Wed 18 ..... Yr 2 Indigenous Art activity  
Wed 18 ..... Prep 2021 Transition via Zoom  
Thu 19 ..... Yr 6 Graduation Fundraiser: Free Dress Day  
Tue 24 ..... Prep 2021 Parent Information Evening  
via Zoom

### December

Tue 1 & 8 ..... Prep 2021 Orientation Days  
Tue 8 ..... Yrs 1 to 6 2021 Orientation Day  
Tue 8 ..... Yr 7 2021 Orientation Day  
Fri 11 ..... Yr 6 Electronics Day  
Tue 15 ..... Yr 6 Graduation  
Wed 16 ..... Yr 6 Electronics Day  
Thu 17 ..... Yr 6 Big Day In  
Fri 18 ..... Term 4 ends - 1.30pm dismissal

Students do not attend school on public holidays  
or student-free days.

### Whole School Assembly

Every Monday at 2.40pm in Stadium. CANCELLED  
Fortnightly online assembly created by Year 6s.

### School Banking - every Tuesday.

SCHOOL BANKING POSTPONED

### School Tours

Thursdays & Fridays at 9.30am. Bookings essential.  
SCHOOL TOURS CANCELLED; VIRTUAL TOUR ON WEBSITE



**School Hats** - every day in Terms 1 & 4.

### 2020 Term Dates

Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

Statewide student-free days: 28 January\*, 14 April, 25 May &  
13 to 17 July.

EHPS student-free days: 29 January & 5 March

### 2021 Term Dates

Term 1: 27 January\* to 1 April

Term 2: 19 April to 25 June

Term 3: 12 July to 17 September

Term 4: 4 October to 17 December

\* 27 January is a state wide student free day.

EHPS student-free days: 28 January, and 2 further dates to be advised



### PARENT PORTAL ON COMPASS

<https://essexheightsps-vic.compass.education>

Essex Heights Primary School

22-30 Essex Road

Mount Waverley VIC 3149

Telephone: (03) 9807 4944

[essex.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:essex.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

[www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au](http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr George Perini

Office Hours: 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday  
during school terms. School currently closed  
to visitors; please contact us by phone or  
email.

## Principal Team Report

Dear Parents and Carers in the Essex Heights Community,

### Remembrance Day

At school we observed one minute's silence at 11 am on 11th November to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. Thank you to Helen Broderick who organised our ceremony and a lovely memorial that all students contributed to. See photos of our school "poppy field" on page 6.

### Prep Farm Day

This year the Preps were not able to visit Edendale Farm, so the Prep Team organised a farm day at school. The children were so excited! It was wonderful to see them dressed up as farm animals and farmers as part of their unit of work where they explore the idea that people need food and clothing and that these materials come from farms. See page 5 for some more details and photos of this special day.

### SunSmart

As we head into the summer months, I encourage all families to review our [SunSmart Policy](#) which can be found on the school's website. Please reinforce sun smart behaviours and practices with your child, and ensure that they bring a sun smart hat to school each day. Teachers remind children to wear their hats appropriately before going outside.

During playtimes, children without a hat are asked to remain in shaded areas either in front of the classroom or the covered area of the Hall.

... continued on page 3



## Year 6 Graduation Fundraiser

**Wear free dress and bring a  
gold donation.**

**NEXT THURSDAY, 19th NOVEMBER**



## November

14th .....	Manuji W
15th .....	Rebecca L
16th .....	Liam M
17th .....	Daniel A
18th .....	Ayaansh S Ryan L
19th .....	Billie H Vivaan T Isabella H
20th .....	Ghin S Divyaansh S

## This week's information on Compass:

Notifications sent this week that were about events/information that have passed may not be listed.



Year/Group	Compass News Feed
Year 1 .....	Weekly Newsletter
Year 5 .....	Onsite Camp Photo Book (Electronic)
Whole School .....	Parent Opinion Survey - final reminder The power of sorry

## Library



### Return Library Books - URGENT!

We still have about 300 books loaned out, and we need them back urgently for our annual stocktake. If you have any Library books at home, **please return them now**. A plastic tub is provided outside the Library door during school hours for students to deliver their borrowed books (remind your children to make sure the lid is put back on the tub securely!).

**Gael Munro**

## Leaving EHPS

If your child is leaving EHPS at the end of this school year, please advise Mr Perini in [writing via email](#) as soon as possible. Include the following information in your email:

1. Child's name and 2020 class.
2. Date of last day at EHPS (end of 2020 school year is Friday 18th December).
3. Name of the school your child is enrolled at.
4. Commencement date at new school (the 2021 school year commences on Wednesday 27th January).
5. The reason for leaving EHPS.
6. New contact details, if any are changing (eg address, phone number, email).

Please also note the following if your child is leaving EHPS:

- Ensure that any outstanding school charges are paid.
- Library books are returned.
- If your child participates in the Instrumental Music Program, please advise Alyssa Kennedy in writing that they are withdrawing from the program, and if applicable, return hired musical instruments.
- Copy academic reports on Compass to an external source before the last day at EHPS; access to the parent portal closes when students leave EHPS.

## Important Reminders



### Bike/Scooters at School

If your child rides their bike or scooter to school, please remind them that they must walk with their bike/scooter on school grounds. At the school gate, they must get off their bike/scooter and walk to the Bike Shed (and vice versa when leaving at the end of the school day).

### Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a filled water bottle every day. The water fountains around the school are currently not available to students to drink from due to the protocols in place for their health and wellbeing. They are able to refill their water bottles from designated taps, however these taps are not to be used to drink from.



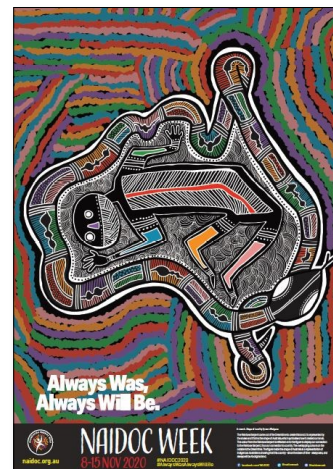
## Principal Team Report

If parents would like their children to wear sunscreen, we encourage you to apply four hour sunscreen to your children before coming to school. If requested, teachers allow students to apply/reapply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outside at lunch time. Students need to bring their own sunscreen, and must be able to apply it themselves.

### NAIDOC Week - 8th to 15th November 2020

This week and next week our school will celebrate NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week with the theme ***Always Was, Always Will Be***, which recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. The children explore how we are spiritually and culturally connected to this country.

The Year 5s read a book called "[Tom Tom](#)" by Rosemary Sullivan and Dee Huxley, and discussed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories that are shared through Dreamtime stories passed on from generation to generation. Each Year 5 class undertook a project of colouring collaboratively that shows that together we can demonstrate sensitivity towards individuals, show respect of other cultures and how we can break down stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice. The children's collaboration will be displayed in the classrooms.



### Active kids are healthy kids

At EHPS we promote the health, learning and wellbeing of children by ensuring that physical activity is a part of every child's day. In addition to our fitness and sports program, we maintain beautiful grounds with equipment and areas for a range of active play. Walking and riding to school are also very beneficial, and often parents ask when it is OK for their child to walk to and from school alone. There is no magic age, as this answer varies greatly depending on each child's cognitive skills, reasoning and the ability to follow directions. You may find the website link below helpful: <https://www.care.com/c/stories/3239/when-can-kids-walk-to-school-alone/en-au/>

### Year 6 Graduation Fundraiser

All students are encouraged to support the Year 6 Graduation fundraiser next Thursday by wearing **free dress** to school and bringing a **gold coin donation**.

Enjoy your weekend.

**Ina Kuehlich, Carolyn Wilson & Ben Wooster**  
Assistant Principals

parenting\*ideas

*"Schools are at their dynamic best when teachers and parents work hand-in-hand together"* **Michael Grose**

We have a school membership with Parenting Ideas, one of Australia's most trusted sources of parenting education and support, providing our school community with excellent resources, including *Insights* articles, and webinar attendance at no cost (a saving of \$37).

The following *Insights* article was distributed via Compass, and is also accessible on our school website:

- The power of sorry

Upcoming Webinar:

- *Parenting like a cat and dog* - held on Wednesday 11th November; accessible until 31st December 2020. Effective parents use more than one style when communicating with their families. They know how to alter their style to suit the situation. In this webinar, Michael Grose uses cat and dog metaphors to introduce parents to two diverse styles of parenting. This will increase their ability and confidence to manage, nurture and build relationships with their children. The cat-dog approach to parenting is fun, easy to use, respectful and maximises parent effectiveness in challenging situations.

For further information, and to access the articles and webinar information above, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## Parent Opinion Survey



A final reminder that all families are invited to complete the Parent Opinion Survey to provide feedback on what parents and carers think of our school. The survey **closes TODAY, Friday 13th November**. We want your feedback - don't miss this opportunity!

This annual survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement, and especially experiences of remote and flexible learning. We will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey is conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the set dates on desktop computers, laptops, tablets, or smartphones. The online survey is also available in a range of languages other than English. All responses are completely confidential, and the survey is conducted anonymously.

One parent from each family can complete the survey, as follows:

1. Click on the link below or copy and paste the text into your browser. This link will take you directly to the survey - <https://www.orima.com.au/parent>:
2. You can choose your language.
3. Select the School and Campus name, and enter the School PIN (details provided via Compass).
4. When complete, please click on the tick button at the end of the survey to submit your answers.

Please note that the survey will time out after 60 minutes of inactivity.

The survey results will be reported back to our school community through the 2020 Annual Report. We look forward to your feedback so that we can continue to make our school the best it can be for the benefit of all our children.

## Policy Updates

The following policies have been updated or added by School Council, and can be accessed on our [school website](#):

- Junior School Council
- Visitors
- Volunteers



## Lost Property

With the return of warmer weather, our lost property bins are overflowing with discarded school uniform! Due to the current restrictions our PFA members cannot come to school to sort lost property, nor are parents permitted to come to school and check the boxes. If your child has misplaced an item of clothing, direct them to look in the lost property boxes - there are four large square, grey, lidded boxes located around the school.



### REMINDER

Make sure that **all items of clothing and property** that your child brings to school **are clearly named** (preferably with a first and last name), to ensure they can be identified and returned promptly. Also, check from time to time when washing uniforms that your child's name hasn't faded and is still readable.

## Secondhand Uniform

We are grateful for donations of secondhand uniform, but currently do not have the capacity to store any more on site at school. Until restrictions are lifted and the PFA can resume management of secondhand uniform, we would appreciate you keeping items to donate at home. We will let you know when we can accept donations again.

If you have uniform that you'd like to donate, please note the following:

- Good quality items only.
- Current logo only, no old logo items.
- Cut off/remove your child's name.



## Prep Farm Festival Day

On Monday 9th November the Preps celebrated their Term 4 focus of 'Where does it come from?' with a Farm Festival Day!

We had lots of amazing dress ups, including Farmers, Animals, Fruits, and even Plants!

It was a fun day of everything 'farm' related! We were lucky enough to hear from Richard and Carolyn from [Edendale Community Environment Farm](#) over a Zoom incursion where we learnt about Farm Life at Edendale, Composting, Worm Farms and Plants. Our Preps also planted their very own Bean Plant, which they are taking care of at school before it ventures home! We read Farm Stories and made a Rooster in our Craft session. At lunch time, we had a wonderful Farm Picnic. The lunchboxes were full of 'farm food' with no wrappers! It was wonderful to discuss the different foods we were eating and where they come from.



We would like to thank Edendale Farm for their presentation over Zoom – it was a great way of virtually showing the Preps Farm Life and adaptation to the excursion.



What a wonderful day of Farm Learning, and it is safe to say the excitement levels were high all day!

The Prep Teachers would like to thank all the Prep parents/families for their support in sending their children along with Farm Lunches and the effort that went into Costumes – it really made the day so special!

*The Prep Teachers,*

**Miss Davies, Mrs Lightfoot, Mrs Bright, Mrs Zaibak, Mrs Morton and Miss Misso**



Photos: the Prep Team

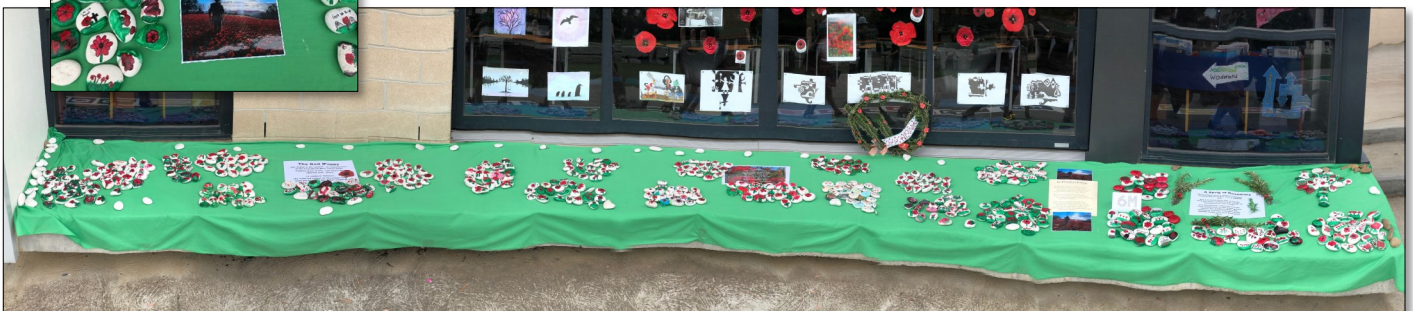
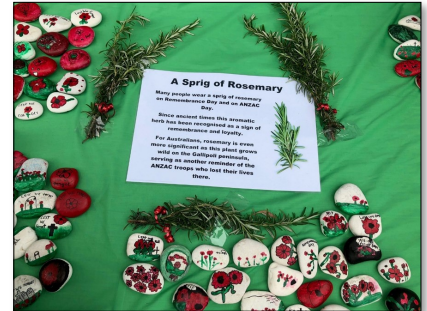




## Remembrance Day

The students of Essex Heights enjoyed painting red poppies on rocks to mark this important date - 11th November, Remembrance Day. Our 'Poppy Field' outside the Library looked amazing, and the students visited the site with a lot of pride and respect.

*Lest We Forget!*



Photos: Helen Broderick

## Year 2 Indigenous Art Activity

Indigenous artist, Simone Thomson, will work with our Year 2 students next Wednesday, 18th November, as part of our building community through art.

Simone is a Melbourne based self-taught artist and descendant of Victoria's Ulupna and Moira Clans of the Yorta-Yorta Tribe, and the Yarra-Yarra Clan of the Wurundjeri Tribe. She draws inspiration for her art through her deep spiritual connection to country and the rich colours and textures of the earth and sky, the sources of many dreamtime stories.



Simone will hold a one hour session with each Year 2 class in the Art Room. The learning intention of the session is to provide the students with the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge of local indigenous culture and art. It is also intended that this session will stimulate the Year 2 students to develop an indigenous inspired design. Over the following art sessions with Mr Hudson, the Year 2 students will transfer their designs into the school grounds using outdoor paint.

If you would like to discover more about Simone Thomson, please visit her website at <https://www.3knd.org.au/post/artist-simone-thomson-joins-g-man-on-big-brekkie>. If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to see or contact Mr Perini, Ina Kuehlich, or myself.

**Aubrey Hudson**

## 2021 Captaincy Applications

The 2021 Captaincy process began earlier this term. Year 5 students are partaking in lessons that reflect on leadership opportunities, building their knowledge of job application letters, hearing from our 2020 Captains, and practicing answering interview questions.

Final Captaincy application letters are due by next Tuesday, 17th November.

## Year 6



### Graduation Fundraiser: Free Dress Day

The Graduation Committee have organised a fundraiser for the Year 6 Graduation with a Free Dress Day **next Thursday, 19th November**. All students are invited to participate, and bring a gold coin donation.



### Electronics Days

Year 6 students will have two Electronics Days this year (instead of the usual one day). These special events take place on Friday 11th and Wednesday 16th December.

### Graduation Celebration

Our Year 6 students will have their Graduation Celebration on **Tuesday 15th December**.



### Big Day In

The Big Day Out we traditionally would have for Year 6s will now be a Big Day In on **Thursday 17th December**. Year 6 teachers and the Graduation Committee have some plans, and will let the community know the details soon - watch this space!

## Music



### Australian Girls Choir Open Day

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir (AGC) because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform. School aged girls are invited to come along to our Virtual Open Day on Sunday 22nd November to try our fun and inclusive classes and learn more about being part of the AGC! Please visit our website to register to attend our free Open Day: <https://ausgirlschoir.com.au/openday2020/>

## Parents & Friends News



### Secondhand Uniform

The arrangements recently advertised for accessing secondhand uniform has now closed. We will advise when we can begin accepting donations of good quality secondhand uniform again, and how this will be made available to purchase.

### PFA Meeting

We are in the process of organising a PFA Meeting in person soon at a local café .... details to come shortly.



**Fiona Nicholson Stocker**  
PFA President & Mum of Allison, 40



# SPECTACULAR

## 2021 VSSS Auditions

**Register by TODAY, Friday 13th November** to audition for the 2021 Victorian State Schools Spectacular - [click here](#). Please note that this year, main cast auditions will be done online or via video submission, and run until early December. To find out more information, contact the Performing Arts Unit by phone on 9415 1700 or email [Performing.Arts@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Performing.Arts@education.vic.gov.au)

THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

# SPECTACULAR

BE PART OF SOMETHING  
SPECTACULAR AND LEARN  
FROM SOME OF THE BEST  
IN THE INDUSTRY!



**Are you interested in the performing arts, working in creative industries, or simply love to dance, sing or play an instrument?**

We are seeking talented Victorian government school students to join the cast and crew of the 2021 Victorian State Schools Spectacular.

Are you in a rock band, jazz ensemble or hip-hop dance group? Are you a gymnast, acrobat, circus performer, puppeteer, rollerskater, cheerleader, beat boxer, BMX or scooter trickster?

Students perform on stage and for a TV broadcast, or gain hands-on experience behind the scenes in technical roles like audio, lighting, film, photography or stage management under the guidance of industry professionals.

Participation is free!

**The Spectacular is scheduled to be performed on Saturday 11 September 2021 and filmed for a TV broadcast.**

To register for an audition, visit [WWW.CVENT.COM/D/57QD9Q](http://WWW.CVENT.COM/D/57QD9Q)

For more information, visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/spectacular](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/spectacular) or contact the Department's Performing Arts Unit on (03) 9415 1700.

[facebook.com/performingartsunit](https://www.facebook.com/performingartsunit) [vicschoolsspec](https://www.instagram.com/vicschoolsspec)