

CALENDAR

December

Fri 11 Canteen closes
Tue 15 Yr 1 Picnic Lunch
Tue 15 Yr 6 Graduation
Wed 16 Yr 6 Electronics Day
Thu 17 Yr 6 Big Day In
Fri 18 Term 4 ends - early 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

SCHOOL BANKING HAS CEASED

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
www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au
Principal: Mr George Perini
Office Hours: 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday during school terms.
NOTE: the Office will close at 2pm on the last day of term, Friday 18th December

Principal's Report



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the last week of school for 2020, it is worth reflecting upon the amazing achievements of this year. 2020 will always be remembered as a challenging and difficult year but the important thing to remember is that we all got through it together. Yes, there were difficulties, but we worked through each one.

In classes this term staff have devoted the majority of their teaching time to ascertaining where students were up to and what are the next steps for their learning. Staff have also monitored the children's health and wellbeing. All of these factors will form part of the end of year reports as well as being passed on to next year's teachers. This will ensure a smooth transition for all students. We are really looking forward to 2021.

Graduation

For our Year 6 students, next week will be their last at EHPS. On Tuesday, they will celebrate their Graduation. There have been some changes to the usual routine but with the collaboration of the Year 6 team and the Graduation Committee, I believe we will have memorable Graduation ceremonies for each class and for the whole cohort. We are all very excited to ensure that next week is very special for our Graduating Class of 2020.

class of
2020

... continued on page 3

Term 4 and
2020 School Year ends
next Friday, 18th December.
Prep & Year 1 dismissed at 1.15pm
Years 2 to 6 dismissed at 1.30pm.

After School Care is available.





December

12th Zoe Z
Annabelle L
Hailey T
Kebo Z
15th Sam S
Aaron T
Conor S
16th Illary S
Alexander S
17th Ariel S
Aiden D
18th Bradley P
Lauren N
Wil A
Phileas L
David T

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	Grade 1 Weekly Newsletter
Year 4	Year 5 Camp 2021 Year 4 Kris Kringle
Year 6	Year 6 Graduation invitation Final Assembly Arrangements Year 6 Update 7.12.20
Years 2 - 5	2021 School Swim Team Trials
Whole School	Canteen - last day for lunch orders & important note Vacation Care 2021

Compass Events:

Year/Group	Notice/Activity and Payment & Consent Due Date
Prep	Prep Christmas Party Wednesday 9th December - <u>overdue</u> ; payment \$5.50 was due by 8th December.
Year 6	Year 6 Graduation - <u>overdue</u> ; payment of \$25 was due by 10th December. Big Day In - payment of \$25 due TODAY, 11th December.

Grounds & Maintenance



Watering of School Grounds

We are seeking parent help to water our beautiful gardens over the Summer school holidays. If you are willing and able to volunteer, please contact the Office with your name and contact details.

A watering induction and briefing for volunteers will be conducted at school on Thursday 17th December at 9am.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Health Centre



Parents whose children have a known food allergy, Asthma or a medical condition, will this week receive a plan home for you to complete with your child's doctor over the Summer holiday period in preparation for the school year in 2021.

This is so we can safely manage your child at school with up to date medical information. It also assists with preparation for camps, excursions and class activities.

Thank you for attending to this, and please return these when the new school year begins next year on 29th January.

Julie Zuk
First Aid Officer
M-F 11am-3pm

Principal's Report

Orientation Day

On Tuesday, most of our new students for 2021 attended school. It was fantastic to see another two groups of Preps coming in for their transition, as well as, all the new students that will be coming into other year levels. There was a real buzz around the school and from all reports a very successful day was had by all.



Walk Up

Next week, Prep to Year 5 will have walk up to their 2021 class. This is also very exciting for children. Where possible, students will meet their new teachers and they will spend a few hours getting to know each other. With the majority of classes staying unchanged for 2021 this will remove a level of change for students. It should be noted that where there are two teachers sharing a class that it may NOT be possible to have both staff present at walk up, due to a variety of reasons.

Infrastructure Grant

Last week we were informed that EHPS has been granted \$257,000 for a project to improve the paving, drainage, fencing and infrastructure in the area of the proposed Maths Garden. We have been anxiously waiting for the results of this grant because it needs to go ahead before we can install and finish the other elements of the Maths Garden. This project will cover the areas from the Sensory & Meditation Garden down to the sandpit, cubby and back gate. It will manage runoff water, improve the whole area, and remove excess water flowing onto the oval. We now await for the Victorian Schools Building Authority to establish our timeline for the commencement and completion of the project. A huge thanks must go to Ina for her continual commitment to grounds development at our school.



Last Day – Friday 18th December

Term 4 and the 2020 school year end next Friday, 18th December. In order to follow Department of Education & Training's advice to reduce congestion and minimise congregation of adults at the school, on Friday next week we will still have a staggered finish to the day. In short, Prep and Year 1 will finish at 1.15pm because they start their day earlier than the rest of the school. Years 2 to 5 will finish at 1.30pm, as they start their day at 9am. Year 6 students will be dismissed following the final assembly.

Last day arrangements are detailed later in this newsletter.

Sadly, due to the COVID density quotient, parents will NOT be able to attend the farewell assembly. Year 6 families please refer to the details sent to you on Compass from the Year 6 team.

Farewell

In last week's newsletter I informed you of the staff that are leaving, retiring or taking leave. Again we wish them all good luck in their new endeavours or their vacations and thank them again for their enormous contribution to Essex Heights Primary School.

This week I would like to wish the children that are leaving our school, as well as their families, the very best of luck for the future. Our Year 6 students will be moving on to secondary school and a few others are moving to private schools or moving to a new location. We hope that you all enjoy your new schools and that you always remember your friends at EHPS. Good Luck to you all!!!



George Perini
Principal



Farewell and Thank You

It is hard to believe that 2 years have passed! In my time away, I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to do some tutoring work which I have loved and some further study in some areas of interest including my yoga skills!

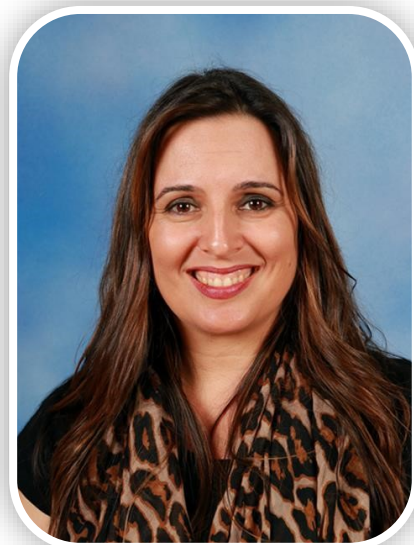
My 5 years at Essex were a very special time. I was very lucky to begin the Indonesian Program and spend three wonderful years as 'Bu Douros' before having two special and enriching years in Year 1 with amazing students and a wonderful team.

To the children, I thank-you for all the joy you have given me as your teacher, for all that you taught me and for the opportunity to have been a part of your learning journey. I wish you all the very best for the future.

To the parents, I thank you for your support along the way, in both my roles. I have really valued the opportunities to work alongside you and watch your children develop their passion for learning.

To the Leadership team & staff (past and present), thank you for your guidance, support and friendship. I wish you all the very best for 2021 and beyond, as you continue to make Essex Heights a great place to be.

Love Alex (Miss Douros) ☺xo



Last Day of Term and Final Assembly Arrangements

What a unique year this has been! We are so thankful for the support our parent community has provided us. Term 4 and the 2020 school year finishes **next Friday, 18th December.**

Final Assembly

Our final Assembly will take place in the Stadium from 12.15pm to 1.00pm on Friday. All students and teachers will attend. Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend. Due to current guidelines from the Department of Education & Training, congestion of adults is to be avoided. Year 6 parents, please refer to the Compass message posted on the 9th December for all details regarding dismissal and final assembly.

Early Dismissal

On Friday, the last day of the school year, students will be dismissed early as follows:

- ★ **Preps and Year 1:** Will be dismissed at 1.15pm from usual exit gates.
- ★ **Years 2 to 5:** Will be dismissed at 1.30pm from usual exit gates.
- ★ **Year 6:** Dismissed from the Council oval at 1.30pm.



Deakin University Interdisciplinary Mathematics and Science Learning Project concludes



Professor Russell, Dr Peta, and Melinda would like to take this opportunity to thank Essex Heights Primary School for your participation in this Australian Research Commissioned (ARC) Project over the past three years (2018 to 2020).

It has been terrific to see the students' growth, particularly in investigation skills, data recording, data representations, and conceptual understanding through their engagement in inquiry and collaborative learning experiences.

Year 3 and Year 6 students have participated each year for three years. Learning sequences they have completed include: Investigating Living Things in the School grounds, How and Why their shadow changes throughout the day, lived Chemistry (including cooking), growing their own plants, investigating flight with paper whirlybirds, investigating water use and heat through activities such as designing their own cups and Magic Microorganisms (a timely investigation as it turned out).



Some student general comments on the Project include:

Science and Mathematics together

"Science and Maths are linked in lots of ways. The maths can show you things you've found out in investigations."

"The science gives you real problems to solve."

"Tables are great to record what's happening and then graphs to show and compare what happened."

What helps me learn

"It is really good to do maths and science together, instead of separate, it makes things easier for me."

"This has really helped me understand Maths and Science a lot!"

"I feel like this has really helped me with my Maths, my graphs especially."

"It helps to draw what you think will happen, your estimations, and then draw what you see happening."

Ways of learning

"I liked the group work and figuring out why things were happening together ...

"I like learning from other students ideas, they give me ideas and inspire me ...

"It's great to be able to explore your ideas and figure it out together ..."



If you would like to know more, please look at our project website <https://imslearning.org/>

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your involvement in the IMS Learning Project over the past three years. It has been a privilege working with you and learning together. We wish all of the students, teachers and staff all the very best for the future.

*The IMS Learning Research Team
Professor Russell Tytler, Dr Peta White, and Melinda Kirk*

Year 1 Police in Schools Visit

Last week we had a visit by our local police - Heath, Verity and Sara. The children learnt the following tips to stay safe and happy in the holidays:



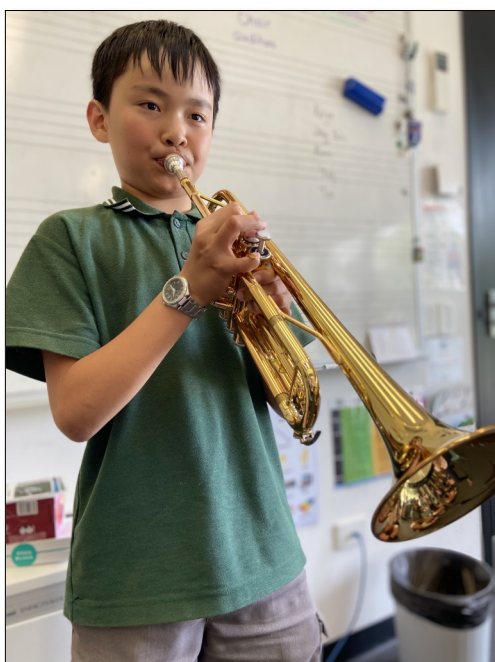
- Always stay close to the shopping trolley when you are at the supermarket or retail store.
- If you are separated from your family, look for 'safe strangers' such as a shop assistant, parents with children, or a security guard.
- Never leave the shopping centre if you are lost. It is much safer to stay.
- If you are going to a place with lots of people, e.g. the MCG or the airport, wear bright colours so your parents can spot you easily if you are lost.
- Check the playground with your family to make sure it is safe.
- Make sure you go to the toilet with an adult.
- Write your phone number on your hand if you are in a busy place such as an airport or festival.

Music



It has been fabulous seeing the students perform on their instruments this week during Music classes. The Year 5 and 6 students were super excited to be introduced to the GuZheng, a traditional Chinese instrument. They enjoyed learning facts about the instrument and hearing Reiya perform on it. There were many other performances on flute, clarinet, trumpet, piano, guitar, cajon, djembe, marimba and harp. It's so great to hear the amazing talent amongst our students.

Tanya Dolence



Year 6 News

We are keenly awaiting all of the excitement of the last week of primary school for our Year 6s, the class of the very extraordinary year of 2020.

The excitement starts on **Tuesday 15th December**, with our Year 6 Luncheon. This will take place in the Hall commencing at 1pm and concluding at 2.30pm. Teachers present and past are encouraged to join us from 1.40pm to come and say hello to our Year 6s, and to view their wonderful kidscapes.

The Year 6 students will leave school as normal at 3.30pm and go home to have a short rest before getting ready for their special Graduation evening. This year we will be having three separate ceremonies:

- ★ 6C at 5.00pm
- ★ 6M at 6.00pm; and
- ★ 6P at 7.00pm.

The students will sing their graduation song at the conclusion of the 7.00pm ceremony, which will be outside the Library.

The school would like to take this opportunity to thank the following businesses for their kind donation of gift vouchers for our award recipients: Coles, Kmart and Officeworks.



Wednesday 16th of December is the day of the Walk Up to the student's classes for 2021. The Year 6s will have a special Electronics Day on this day.

Thursday 17th December is the Big Day In. This is a day of fun commencing at 9.00am. Amusement activities will be brought into the school to entertain the students. At 12 noon the activities conclude and then the students will have a movie afternoon in the Hall.

The week will conclude with a final Assembly in the Stadium on **Friday 18th December**. All the school will farewell the Year 6s for the last time at Essex Heights Primary School.

2021 School Swim Team Trials

Trials for the 2021 Essex Heights Swim Team will be held on Tuesday 2nd February from 1pm to 3pm at Monash Aquatic & Recreation Centre (MARC) in the outdoor 50m pool. Students turning 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 years old in 2021 (born in 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008), who meet the following criteria, are invited to nominate to attend the Swimming Trials:



- Your child must be a current participant, or recent participant, in an organised swimming program at the following levels or equivalent:
 - Monash Aquatic: Minky Seal, Bronze, Silver or Gold levels
 - Tateswim: Any of the junior squads
 - Just Swimming: Seal level or higher
 - Huntingtower Swimming Club: Green level or Squad members
 - Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre: Shark level or any Squad members
- Can swim any of the four major strokes in under 1 minute and 3 seconds over 50m distance.

Selected students will be transported to the trials by chartered bus. There is no cost for this event.

If your child meets this criteria and wishes to attend the trials, please email me by 4pm Monday 14th December with the following details: Student Name, Birthdate, 2020 school year level, Swimming Club, Swimming Level, or 50m times.

If selected to attend the trials, you will receive a Compass permission request. The times recorded at the trials will be used to select the 2021 Essex Heights Swim Team. This team will compete at the Mulgrave District Swimming Carnival on Thursday 18th February 2021.

If you have any questions, please email elisha.cotterell@education.vic.gov.au or phone the school on 9807 4944.

Elisha Cotterell

School Banking

From Term 1, 2021 the Victorian Government has ceased school banking programs in Victorian government schools. As a result, the CommBank School Banking program will no longer operate at our school after the end of this term.

If you are unsure of other methods of depositing to your child's account, please feel free to contact the Bank's general enquiries hotline on 13 22 21, or alternatively visit your local CommBank branch.

We would like to thank you for your participation and support throughout the School Banking program.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers over the years who have helped facilitate the School Banking program at our school every week. In particular, Amanda Kelsall, Erica Baddeley, Katy Smith, Steph Trace, Fiona Nicholson Stocker, Sasi Madhusudhanan and Sushma Joshi.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer break.



Angela Millan
School Banking Coordinator

Munch & Crunch Canteen

Today was the last day for lunch orders, and the Canteen is now closed for this year.

My grateful thanks for all your support through this extraordinary year!



I look forward to 2021, and hopefully a return to normal operations with a wonderful team of volunteers. The 2021 menu and the canteen volunteer request will be out at the start of next year - I need LOTS of helpers for the team, so please consider what you can offer.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing break, and look forward to preparing lunch orders for your children and working with you in 2021.

Maria Vlahos
Canteen Manager

Outside School Hours Care

January Vacation Care

The 2021 January Vacation Care Program will operate on weekdays from Monday 11th to Friday 22nd January, prior to the start of the new school year. The enrolment form is accessible on Compass. Please complete and email your requested days of care back to me as soon as possible. Do not send your forms to the Office or classroom teacher.



Program Enrolment in 2021

The program will need families to complete new enrolment forms for 2021. Forms will be given to your children to take home to be completed and returned before the end of the year.

If you have any questions, please send them to Paul.Davis@education.vic.gov.au, or phone OSHC on 9807 2615 or 0417 941 986.

Paul Davis
Coordinator



Secondhand Uniform Donations

Please deliver secondhand uniforms into the School Office in clearly marked bags. Don't forget to remove names on uniforms and please don't donate items that have old logos.

All lost property has been sorted this week. Named items have been returned to students. Some items were named, but unreadable; these items are all in the lost property box outside the Eucalyptus building. If your child has misplaced property, you are permitted to come to school after hours to look for it.

Thank you to the JSC

Thank you to all the Junior School Council members who recently helped sort and deliver lost property when the PFA were not permitted onto the school grounds. We hope you enjoyed the icy treats at your meeting on Wednesday.



Entertainment Membership

Please help support our fundraising with an Entertainment Membership (digital or book) - <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/187402c>

A time for giving
& getting together

Support us & buy today

Get into the holiday spirit & buy an Entertainment Membership to help us raise an **extra \$10** or **\$20** on top of the **20%** we already receive!



Fiona Nicholson Stocker and Betty Ciorciari

Community Noticeboard

Products & services advertised in Contact are placed on a paid basis and are not necessarily being promoted by Essex Heights Primary School. In responding to any advertisement, you accept full responsibility for the consequences of goods or services received.



THE GREAT AUSSIE HIKE

2020 has been a tough year
but when it comes to looking after our mates
AUSSIES ARE ABSOLUTE LEGENDS

Reconnect with your mates and help their mental wellbeing
Train together for the ultimate team challenge
Walk 30km, 60km or 100km in 2021

Training and support program available from
September and adapted for current restrictions

REGISTER EARLY - NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED

greaaussiehike.com.au

TEAM CHALLENGE
26-27 March 2021
East Gippsland Rail Trail

HELP YOUR MATES AND REGISTER A TEAM TODAY

ASTHMA AUSTRALIA

KIDS HEALTH

What to do
when a little one **IS SICK**

Join us for a **FREE ONLINE SESSION**
on how to care for your 0-4 year old
after hours. We will cover the top 10
most common illnesses.

Time: 60 mins **Cost:** Free

FREE
Kids Health
resource
pack

Register via www.asthma.org.au/kidshealth

Sponsored by
phn
NORTH WESTERN
MELBOURNE

Caulfield Little Athletics
invites all boys and girls
aged between 5-15
years to join us!

Our location
Duncan Mackinnon Reserve,
Cnr North & Murrumbeena Rd, Murrumbeena

Want to know more?
Visit our website www.caulfieldlac.com.au
Or for registrations and further information please
email registrar@caulfieldlittleathletics.org.au

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LITTLE ATHLETICS

Little Athletics
Victoria

Come & Try
Woolworths Cricket
Blast

Friday 11
December
5:30PM

Essex Heights
Reserve

Junior Blasters
(ages 5-7)
&
Master Blasters
(ages 7-10)

Free sausage sizzle afterwards

ASHWOOD CC EST 1958

Woolworths CRICKET BLAST