

## CALENDAR

### February

Mon 15-Wed 17 EHPS closed; Remote & Flexible Provision  
 Mon 15 ..... Preps fulltime - 8.45am to 3.15pm  
 Thu 18 ..... Mulgrave District Swimming Carnival  
 Fri 19 ..... Yr 6 Summer Inter-School Sport  
 Tue 23 ..... **Pink Stumps Day**  
 Thu 25 ..... EHPS student-free day **\*DATE CHANGED\***  
 Fri 26 ..... Yr 6 Summer Inter-School Sport

### March

Mon 1-Wed 3 ... Yr 5 Camp  
 Tue 2 ..... Division Swimming  
 Fri 5 ..... Yr 6 Summer Inter-School Sport  
 Mon 8 ..... Labour Day public holiday  
 Tue 9-Fri 12 ..... Yr 6 Camp  
 Fri 12 ..... Region Swimming  
 Mon 15-Tue 16 . School Photos  
 Tue 16 ..... District Tennis  
 Fri 19 ..... National Ride2School Day  
 Fri 19 ..... Yr 6 Summer Inter-School Sport  
 Mon 22 ..... The Resilience Project Parent information  
 Session - online webinar  
 Fri 26 ..... Yr 6 Summer Inter-School Sport - Finals

### April

Thu 1 ..... Grandparents & Special Friends Day  
 Thu 1 ..... Term 1 ends - 2.30pm dismissal  
 Mon 19 ..... Term 2 commences

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

### Whole School Assembly

Every Monday at 2.40pm in Stadium. *Parents are not permitted to attend under current guidelines.*



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

### School Tours

For 2021 & 2022 entry - Thursday & Friday at 9.30am.  
Bookings essential.

### 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, 25 February and 1 additional date



### 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.

## Principal Team Report

Dear Parent & Carers,

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government today announced new directions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As a result, in line with the directions issued from Victoria's Chief Health Officer, all Victorian schools will move to a period of remote and flexible provision **from Monday 15th February to Wednesday 17th February, inclusive**, which means that all students (unless they are the children of essential workers) will remain at home. Onsite supervision will be provided for the children of essential workers only. Further details will be provided to our school community via Compass as soon as this is available.

## Parent Teacher Discussions

It was pleasing to see so many parents and guardians taking time to have meaningful discussions with their child's teachers this week. These parent 'meet and greet' conversations lay the foundations for excellent partnerships between home and school. We would like to thank our teachers and administrative staff for their organisation and flexibility to ensure positive and purposeful interactions. Please remember that if there is any issue that you feel the school needs to know, it is best to inform the classroom teacher (use the link in Compass to email your child's teachers). Our teachers will always be available to arrange appointments to have a meeting when required.

## Student Leaders Badge Presentation

On Monday 8th February Mr Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Mount Waverley, presented our student leaders with their leadership badges at our first whole school Assembly. This was an exciting and memorable moment for our Year Six student leaders. We look forward to our leader's modelling exemplary behaviour and our school values with our younger students throughout 2021. A reminder that the current guidelines do not permit parents to attend Assembly. We will advise when this changes, and look forward to your attendance in the future.



... continued on page 3



## February

13th ..... Ayla J  
 14th ..... Celine G  
                   Ian G  
 15th ..... Ethan Z  
 16th ..... Hridhaan S  
                   Riley M  
 19th ..... Ethan F

## 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

Prep ..... Prep start times from Monday 15th February  
 Prep 2021 - Important Information  
 Foundation ArtSEL Lesson 2: Focusing Attention. Homework included.

Year 1 ..... Year One Term Newsletter  
 Grade 1 ArtSEL: Focusing Attention. Homework included.

Year 2 ..... Grade 2 ArtSEL: Lesson 2: Focusing Attention and Listening.  
 No Homework.

Year 3 ..... Weekly Update

Year 6 ..... Year 6 Camp Information Night

Whole School ..... COVID-19 Update  
 On-site care for children of essential workers  
 IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
 Helping your child become the best student they can be  
 Secondhand Uniform Sale on Thursday

## Compass Events:

### Year/Group

### Notice/Activity and Payment & Consent Due Date

Years 4, 5 & 6 ..... Marimba Ensemble lessons 2021 - \$50 & consent due 26th February; CSEF does not apply.

Year 6 ..... Summer Inter School Sport (ISS) - \$45 & consent; overdue, contact the Office to process.  
 Year 6 camping program - Forest Lodge Farm Camp - \$485 & consent due by 1st March.

Selected Students ..... Mulgrave District Swimming Carnival 2021 - pay \$15 & consent by 17th February.

## 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 \$39).

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

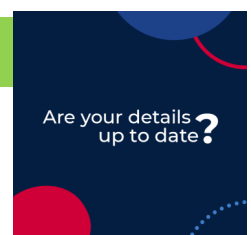
- Helping your child become the best student they can be

For further Parenting Ideas information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## Are your details up to date?

It is essential that contact details for your child is up to date in their record at school. This includes their home address (and mailing address if different), parent/guardian phone numbers, parent/guardian work contact/details during the school day, email address, emergency contact details, and/or family circumstances.

If any details have changed recently, please provide the new details in writing to the school email - [essex.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:essex.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au) - to ensure that we can contact you as required.



# Principal Team Report

## Prep

This week our Grade Prep students participated in their first full week at school. It has been delightful to observe the students skipping into school each day ready to socially engage with their new friends and learning environment. The students have responded positively to new routines and engagement in the classroom, formal and informal learning and exploration of playground spaces.

## Year 6 Inter-School Sport

Our Year Six students have recommenced Inter-School Sports each Friday from 9.00am to 11.00am. The students really enjoyed engaging in their first sporting event of the year last Friday competing against Mount View PS, with the usual, and expected, levels of good sportsmanship, respect and friendliness. Please remind your child to be SunSmart and bring a hat and water bottle.



## The Resilience Project

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, this year the students are participating in [The Resilience Project](#) as part of our focus on mental health and wellbeing for our students, staff and wider school community here at Essex Heights Primary School.



The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools - providing practical, evidence-based, positive mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Through presentations, school curriculum, student diaries and their app, The Resilience Project seeks to help all Australians become mentally healthy.

The Resilience Project team have delivered programs to over 1000 government, independent and private schools nationally and are regarded as one of the most engaging positive mental health programs in the country.

As part of the delivery and implementation of The Resilience Project, we are delighted to invite all our families to an **online webinar** on **Monday 22nd March from 7pm to 8pm**. Hugh van Cuylenburg, the founder of The Resilience Project, will speak about evidence based research that explores how practising the principles of gratitude, empathy and mindfulness helps us to build resilience and be happier. Please note this important date in your diaries.

## Australian Open

**Congratulations** to Max O (3GO) and Tihana R (4C) who are participating in the Coin Toss program at the Australian Open this year. Well done on being offered this opportunity, and we hope this is a great experience for you.



*Max at the Australian Open*

## Pink Stumps Day

Get out your cricket gear, because **Pink Stumps Day** is around the corner!

This year the event will be held on Tuesday 23rd February between 11.30am and 1.00pm (approximately). We are encouraging our students to **wear something pink** on the day and to bring a gold coin donation to help raise money for the McGrath Foundation. This is an annual whole school fundraising event where students will be watching the Teachers v 6's featured cricket match. Please come along and support this outdoor event.



Once again we would like to thank our school community for your support and flexibility, particularly around drop off and pick up times and wearing masks on school grounds. We continue forward to working in partnership with our families' throughout Term One and beyond.

Please keep an eye on Compass over the weekend - we will keep you informed with details about the next week at EHPS.

**The Prin Team**



**Tuesday 23rd February**

**11.30am to 1pm**

### **Teachers vs Year 6 cricket match**

The whole school community is invited to **wear pink** on this day and bring a **gold coin donation** to raise money for the McGrath Foundation.

## **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please collect an application form from the School Office reception, print a copy of the form attached to the message sent via Compass on 1st February, or access on our [school website](#).

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page](#).

Check with the School Office if you have any queries. Return completed forms to the School Office as soon as possible. Bring your concession card when lodging your application form. CSEF must be lodged not later than the end of Term 2 (Friday 25th June).



## **Student-free Days**

Each year Victorian Government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all Victorian government schools, and the remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school. Please note the following dates for the EHPS community:

- Wednesday 27th January - all Victorian Government schools
- Thursday 28th January
- Thursday 25th February **\*\* NOTE: date change from that advised previously \*\***
- Wednesday 11th August (tentative; will be confirmed at a later date)



## School Fees

The details of the 2021 school fees were advised to all families by Mr Perini last week via Compass. Fees are now due, and should be paid as soon as possible, as this is a very important part of the funding that supports all the school's programs.

Our school receives Department of Education & Training funding for each child and this assists the school to provide the basic curriculum and service needs for the children. On its own, it does not provide the additional equipment and resources that our community is accustomed to for the children's learning.

View the 2021 school charges for your family on your Compass parent portal, by selecting Course Confirmation/Payments (Alert highlighted in green) at the top of the My News section on the right hand side of the home screen. *Note:* if you are using the Compass School Manager app, you must first swipe the app home screen off to the right, and select Open in Browser from the displayed menu to access the Compass home screen. All the 2021 school fees will be displayed; there are three different types of charges, as required by the Department of Education & Training policy:

- Essential Student Learning Items (compulsory) - \$180 per student
- General Classroom Materials, Resources and School Equipment (voluntary) - \$170 per student
- Grounds Maintenance (voluntary) - \$30 per family
- ICT (Computer) Support (voluntary) - \$30 per family
- First Aid Officer (voluntary) - \$30 per family

I urge all families, wherever possible, to please support your children's learning and pay all the School Council approved student charges for 2021. There has been no change to the total charge to families - \$350 per student (the total of the Essential Student Learning Items charge of \$180 per student and the General Classroom Materials, Resources and School Equipment charge of \$170 per student) is exactly the same as the Student Essential Items charge in 2020. The three voluntary charges (Grounds Maintenance, ICT (Computer) Support, and First Aid) were also \$30 each per family in 2020.

Our preferred methods for payment are Compass Pay or BPay; fees are due now and are payable as soon as possible. Please note that statements to notify 2021 school fees are not being issued by email to all families as has been done previously; if you want to pay by BPay, please request a copy of your statement from the Office to obtain the Biller Code. You will see that only the compulsory Essential Student Learning Item charge is on your statement, which is in accordance with the DET policy; please add the voluntary charges you are able to pay when making your BPay payment. Other payment options, payable at the Office, are: Eftpos (Visa or MasterCard), Cheque (payable to Essex Heights Primary School), or Cash (correct amount only, as no change is held at the Office).

We understand some families may be experiencing financial difficulties. Alternate arrangements, including payment by instalment, can be made following a confidential discussion with our Business Manager, Barbara McCann, by contacting her by phone on 9807 4944 or by email [Barbara.McCann2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Barbara.McCann2@education.vic.gov.au). We thank you for continuing to support the school.

## Health Centre

In December last year, parents who have children with a known food allergy, Asthma or a medical condition, received a plan requesting this be completed with your GP for the new school year.

Thank you to the families who have already returned these; if still outstanding, could you return these as soon as possible, as this assists in preparation for camps, excursions and class activities.

Years 5 and 6 have camps this term, so if these forms could be completed and returned within the next week, we will then have up to date care plans for management of your children while on camp.

If you have any queries, or you need another form, please call me on 9807 4944 between 11am and 3pm Monday to Friday.



**Julie Zuk**  
First Aid Officer

## Junior School Council

The mission of the Junior School Council (JSC) is to provide opportunities for students to be proactive members and leaders of the Essex Heights Primary School community. They achieve this by participating in a Junior School Council that is engaging, consultative and makes a difference at a local and global level. Through this structure, we promote student voice and agency.

With 2021 up and running, we are excited to begin the process of voting in our new JSC representatives.

This year, each class from Years 3 to 6 will vote in two Captains to represent their class on the JSC. To further extend opportunity for student voice, we will also be voting in two Semester 1 Vice Captains. In Semester 2, we will elect two new Vice Captains from each Year 3 to 6 class.

Additionally, this year our School Captains will be heavily involved in the running of the JSC. They will set the agenda and convene the meetings, consulting with our two JSC Coordinators, Maria Capsalis and Aubrey Hudson.

We look forward to announcing our JSC Captains and Vice Captains in the coming weeks and informing you of all the wonderful things they achieve through the year.

## Instrumental Music Program



### 2021 Instrumental Lessons

Want to learn an instrument this year?

- Recommended starting ages for Instruments:
  - Grade 1 – Piano, Keyboard, Drum-Kit, Violin, Viola
  - Grade 2 – Cello, Clarinet, Trumpet
  - Grade 3 – Flute, Guitar, Ukulele, Harp
  - Grade 4 – Saxophone, Trombone and Double Bass
  - Grade 5/6 – Any Instrument
  - Preps – may start Grade 1 instruments from Cycle 2 onward:



Interested in learning an instrument we don't have?

Please let us know by completing an Expression of interest form – you can find it with the Handbooks on the school link below.

### Ensemble Groups

Guitar Ensemble  
Percussion Ensemble  
Concert Band  
String Ensembles  
Contemporary Band

If you learn outside school, come and join our ensembles.

Check out the Essex Ensembles Handbook.

**Current students:** Enrolments are ongoing.

- Want to continue with everything the same? No need to do anything.
- If you would like to change your type of lesson, instrument or withdraw from lessons, please email [Alyssa.Kennedy@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Alyssa.Kennedy@education.vic.gov.au)

Handbooks available: <http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/76/Instrumental-Music-Program>



## Music: Count Us In National Songwriting Competition

Music: Count Us In (MCUI) is Australia's biggest school initiative; celebrating music and music education across the country. The program comes together on our national Celebration Day when over half a million students sing the same song, on the same day, at the same time. The Program Song is at the heart of Music: Count Us In each year. It is a song written by students and written for students. The [Music: Count Us In National Songwriting Competition](#) is currently open to help us find the writers of the 2021 Program Song. Students must write a song to a brief to have their entry/entries considered.



The MCUI National Songwriting Competition will be used to help write the 2021 Program Song. A small group of finalists will be selected to work in collaboration with each other, Program Ambassador John Foreman OAM and our 2021 Program Mentor at our 2021 Songwriting Workshop. Past Mentors have included Lior, Marcia Hines, Jay Laga'aia, Taylor Henderson and Katie Noonan.

The program song will be learned and performed by students of all ages and abilities. We are looking for song entries written by students that are catchy, optimistic and upbeat. Your song should be positive and not too tricky. It can be in any style or genre but remember to consider what will be popular amongst young people all over the country. Send us a submission that demonstrates your ability to write for young people.

### Other Information

- ★ The 2021 Program Song will be developed collaboratively.
- ★ The song will be used to develop lesson plans and digital resources.
- ★ Finalists will receive a fee for their contribution to the 2021 Program Song.
- ★ Songwriters must be school students (P – 12) primary, secondary, home school etc.
- ★ Submissions are due by **5pm on Friday 26th February 2021.**

*Jessica Wynne*





## Sustainability



### Recycling Bin Roster

If you are willing to volunteer for our Recycling Bin roster to put the school's yellow lidded bins out on a Sunday evening for collection on Monday, please contact the Office to advise your availability.



### Sustainability Hub - Orchard weeding & watering

If you have a free hour during the week, the orchard always appreciates some weeding and watering. This can be done whilst social distancing during class hours, or even over the weekend. Please contact Marita Steward if you want to help in this way.

### Wipe Out Waste

Rubbish Free Lunches are BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND in 2021.

**Tuesdays and Thursdays will be days when our lunchboxes are wrapper free.**

Try our **new and improved program** with it's new name - **W.O.W.**



## Secondhand Uniform Sale

Thanks to all those who supported our Term 1 Secondhand Uniform Sale yesterday. We raised almost \$1,000.

In particular, thanks to the parent volunteers who helped with set up and pack up, and running another successful stall - Louise Bentley, Shivali Singh, Kelly Lukies, Kelly Cutler, Jenni Dowling, Hiral Dattani, Nadeeka Arambewela-Colley, Elissa Shekar, Sam Watson, Crystal Ter, Bi Xia, and Catriona Corben (apologies if anyone has been missed). Thanks also to our Office Admin team for their assistance.



**Niki Ngo**

(Mum of Sienna & Caitlin)

PFA - Secondhand Uniform Coordinator

## Crunch & Munch Canteen

Our Canteen opened on Monday, and will be preparing lunch orders on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. **\*\* NO CANTEEN ON MONDAY 15th OR WEDNESDAY 17th FEBRUARY \*\***



### Canteen menu

There have been some changes to menu items, availability and prices. Please check the [2021 menu](#) when preparing lunch orders to ensure you are ordering correctly.

In particular, please note:

- Sushi - not available on Monday, only Wednesday and Friday.
- Chicken Burger, Sausage Roll, and Vegetable Pastie are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**UPDATED**



### Roster Volunteer Request

The Canteen needs volunteers to function successfully. If you can assist on Monday (11.15am to 1.45pm), Wednesday (9am to 1.45pm) or Friday (9am to 1.45pm), please complete the volunteer request reply slip provided via Compass, and return early next week so the roster can be finalised.

**Maria Vlahos**

Canteen Manager



## 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.



**Sport  
Fitness  
Confidence  
Self Defence  
Discipline  
Fun  
Friendship**

# Karate Classes

**\*Free Uniform, Free Trial Class!!**

**Thursdays:**  
**St Stephen & St Mary Church Hall**  
383 High Street Rd., Mount Waverley  
Parking at rear of church  
Class Time is 6:30pm to 7:30pm



## LION BUSHIDO KARATE ACADEMY

\* Free Uniform with Annual Membership

[www.lionbushido.com](http://www.lionbushido.com)

LBKA Centers:

**Forest Hill – Wantirna – Rowville – Glen Waverley – Mount Waverley**  
**Dandenong – Doncaster East – Chelsea**  
**Fountain Gate – Narre Warren South – Patterson Lakes**

**For Bookings Phone 9887 4098**

AS PART OF CLAYTON FESTIVAL, MONASH YOUTH SERVICES AND QUIKSOUND PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# ORIGAMI WORKSHOP

GRAB SOME PAPER AND GET CRAFTY WITH US ONLINE



**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE  
AGED 10-25**

**MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2021  
5PM-6.30PM**

**FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT  
[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BOANL](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BOANL)**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US AT  
[YRCR@MONASH.VIC.GOV.AU](mailto:YRCR@MONASH.VIC.GOV.AU) OR 9518 3900**



AS PART OF CLAYTON FESTIVAL, MONASH YOUTH SERVICES AND QUIKSOUND PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

# FREE ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT

TRIVIA COMPETITION, CHALLENGE  
GAMES & LIVE MUSIC

**WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY  
5PM-6.30PM**

**FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER VISIT:  
[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BNVXS](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BNVXS)**

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**

**For more information please visit:  
[www.monashyouth.org.au](http://www.monashyouth.org.au) or call 9518 3900**





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**Bring out the best in your child with singing.**



Enrolments for the Australian Youth Choir are now open to boys and girls from 7 years.



An opportunity to develop singing, build confidence, self esteem and make new friends.



Weekly rehearsals in Burwood during school Term; workshops and concerts included in the year.

**TRY OUT NOW  
CONTACT US**

**[office2@niypaa.com.au](mailto:office2@niypaa.com.au) or 9836 2877**

**Take your child's singing from the shower to the stage!**

Visit our **website** [www.niypaa.com.au](http://www.niypaa.com.au)

[@niypaaofficial](https://www.facebook.com/niypaaofficial)

[australian\\_youth\\_choir](https://www.instagram.com/australian_youth_choir)

The Australian Youth Choir is a division of National Institute of Youth Performing Arts Australian (NIYPAA) ABN 28 007 124 629