

CALENDAR

December

Tue 8	.....	Prep 2021 Orientation Day
Tue 8	.....	Yrs 1 to 6 2021 Orientation Day
Tue 8	.....	Yr 7 2021 Orientation Day
Wed 9	.....	Prep Christmas Party
Fri 11	.....	Yr 6 Electronics Day
Fri 11	.....	Canteen closes
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

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.

Principal's Report



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather this week and having more fun with family and friends. The easing of restrictions has allowed us to plan a few fun activities for children.

The most pressing was **Year 6 Graduation**, and I am pleased that we will be able to conduct modified ceremonies for our graduating class and their families. To meet COVID gathering and density rules we will conduct three consecutive class ceremonies on Tuesday 15th December. This will allow two family members to attend the graduation of their child. At the conclusion of each event adults will leave the ceremony, and the family members for the next class will enter. At the conclusion of the three events a student disco will be held.



The Graduation ceremonies will begin at 5pm and the disco will finish at 10.30pm. I would like to acknowledge the persistent and supportive work of the Graduation Committee and the Year 6 staff. We look forward to a memorable event for our Year 6 Class of 2020.

The Year 6 team is also planning a special Big Day In for the students on Thursday 17th December, as opposed to their usual Big Day Out. This special day sounds like it will be lots of fun and a very memorable day for all the Year 6 students.

This week there have also been several year level activities that have been enjoyed by the children. Year 1 had a visit from the Police in Schools program, Year 2 had a great day for their farmers' market, not to mention the exciting Prep 2021 Orientation Day. Other year levels are also planning activities over the next two weeks.

The new Operation guidelines have also allowed the school to relax a few other activities, for example:

- Educational specialists can enter the school for incursions and professional development.
- Transition activities are allowed.
- There has been an easing of requirements for the mixing of classes at a year level.
- Peer Support programs are now permitted.
- Drinking fountains can be used again by students. (please note that we have purged all taps before making them available to students).

At all times we will continue to manage congestion and hygiene issues.

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December

5th	Eamon L Evie B Matilda S Noah S
6th	Parker S Georgia A Burhan V Yuna L
7th	Aleko K Angela C Jai S
8th	Lucas H Jovi H Jorin T Isabel P
9th	Danielle F
10th	Rohan S Lina C Chloe K Nehir M

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 Annual Christmas Party - NEXT WEDNESDAY!!
Year 1	Weekly Newsletter
Year 2	Year 2 Kris Kringle and Picnic Year 2 Catching on Early
Year 5	Year 5 Weekly Update (December 4) Year 5 - Catching on Early program (the week of Dec 7-11)
Year 6	Mount Waverley Secondary College Virtual Visit
Whole School	Canteen - urgent notice Building deep emotional connections with kids

Compass Events:

Year/Group	Notice/Activity and Payment & Consent Due Date
Prep	Prep Christmas Party Wednesday 9th December - pay \$5.50 by 8th December.
Year 6	Year 6 Graduation - pay \$25 by 10th December. Big Day In - pay \$25 by 11th December.

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 this week via Compass, and is also accessible on our school website:

- Building deep emotional connections with kids

For further information, including to access *Insights* articles and webinar details, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Leaving EHPS

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

Principal's Report



As we get close to the end of the year I would again like to remind all families that food cannot be shared, so we ask that parents **do not send** in any food (including lollies, e.g. Xmas Candy Canes). If parents would like to send in a special end of year class treat, please email the teacher, as a class book, game or puzzle would be greatly appreciated.

Staffing Update for 2021

Our Year Level and Specialist staffing for next year has been finalised. The table below shows the teachers that will take classes at a particular year level or the teachers that will take the special curriculum areas.

Year Level	Staff	Specialist	Staff
Prep	Kirsten L & Victoria G Natalie Z & Verity B Shona M Lauren D	Health & PE	Marita S
Year 1	Margaret F Nikki O Karen W Carolyn W & Ben W	Indonesian	Meldeen P
Year 2	Renée D Mel B Lena P & Helen B Alexandra O	Music	Jessica W
Year 3	Kristi L Paula H & Anita D Brianna G & Felicity O	Art	Aubrey H
Year 4	Elisha C Kelvin T Andrew R	ArtSEL	TBC
Year 5	Moira L Emma U Magdalene L	EAL	Yogi P
Year 6	Maria C & Aubrey H Con P Grace C	Learning Support	Nicole M

Coordinators shown in bold.

Sadly, as in all years, some of our staff are leaving for a variety of reasons. I want to thank them all for their huge contribution to our school and for the children that they have taught and mentored. They will all be missed by our school community.

For those taking leave (Kathy H and Chris C) we hope that you enjoy your time away from the busyness of school and that you have time to relax and spend time with family and friends.

To Sarah E and Cassie D, we look forward to meeting your beautiful children when they enter our world. Best wishes to you and your partners and may you and your family be blessed. Nicole M will be with us for some part of Term 1, so it is not farewell now, but she will not have a direct classroom role next year

Tanya D is transferring to Chatham PS for 2021 to continue the work she has commenced there. She has left an amazing musical legacy in our school and will be really missed by the whole EHPS Community. We all wish her well in her new adventure and challenge at Chatham PS. I am however very pleased to confirm that Jessica Wynne who has worked with us all this year will take over the whole classroom music program in 2021.

Alex Douros, who has been on leave for two years, has now decided to follow a different path. Through pioneering the introduction of Indonesian and her leadership of Year 1, Alex will always be remembered by our EHPS Community. On behalf of us all, we wish Alex every success and happiness in the future.

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Principal's Report

For those that will not be returning (Lisa B and Jean E), we wish you all success in all your future endeavours. We hope you will always have fond memories of the Essex Heights Community.

During this year a few long standing staff (Jenny S, Janine C, Leanne H, Anne W and Annegret T) have retired. Our school has been very fortunate to have them work with our children over the years. We thank you for your tireless contribution to our school and wish you and your families continued good health and happiness for the new direction ahead.

Leave / End of Contract	Replacement or Comment	Returning from Leave	Retired / Resignation
Tanya Dolence (Chatham PS)	Jessica Wynne (Music)	Brianna Golsworthy	Jenny Sellick
Sarah Edwards (Family Leave)	Meldeen Pratiwi (Indonesian)	Anita Dix	Janine Collins
Nicole Morton (Family Leave)			Leanne Hare
Cassie Dillon (Family Leave)			Anne Wootton
Chris Cavill (Leave)	Grace Cordell (Year 6)		Alex Douros
Kathy Halliday (Leave Term 1)			Annegret Talman
Lisa Burns			
Jean Elliott			

Finally, we welcome back in 2021 Brianna G and Anita D from family leave. Our school is fortunate to have two such experienced and highly regarded teachers returning to EHPS and teaching in Year 3. Next year we also welcome two new teachers - Meldeen Pratiwi to take over Indonesian and Grace Cordell to be part of the Year 6 team. They both bring passion and enthusiasm to their respective roles and I am sure that the children will really benefit from their expertise.

Canteen lunch orders - urgent notice

We have become aware that Canteen orders are being placed for multiple students on one order, and students are providing food to their friends. This is to cease immediately. EHPS has a number of children who suffer from severe or life threatening food allergies known as anaphylaxis. We also have a large number of children with other various food allergies. Therefore, parents, students and staff must be sensitive to the critical needs of the children at school who have severe food allergies. For the safety of all our students, please only place a lunch order for your child/children only.

Please note that the Canteen closes for this school year next Friday, 11th December.

School Banking ends

DET announced this week that school banking programs will no longer run in Victorian government schools. We thank Angela Millan and her team of parent volunteers for their time and commitment to running this program at EHPS.

I hope to see you all around the gates and entrances to our school over the next few weeks.

Kindest regards.

George Perini
Principal



2020 Spectacular Broadcast

We're excited to share with you that Channel 7 Melbourne is proudly supporting the 2020 Victorian State Schools Spectacular. A special broadcast with behind-the-scenes highlights will air **tomorrow, Saturday 5th December, at 7pm** on Seven in Victoria. It will also be livestreamed on the 7plus app and 7plus website, www.7plus.com.au, and will be available for catch-up viewing on the 7plus app and website for 30 days from the broadcast date. Mark your diary now and let all your friends and family know to tune in!!

Prep Christmas Party

We are holding a Christmas Party and end of year Prep celebration **next Wednesday**, 9th December, from 12.30pm to 2pm to mark the remarkable year the 2020 Preps have had, in the classroom, on Zoom and at home.

We will be having a Prep Christmas Lunch. Due to circumstances around sharing food, can you please pack a nice lunch for your child. We will provide each Prep with a special decorated Christmas Cookie and a Cupcake.

The children can come dressed in their best Christmas festive clothes, red and green, or school uniform.

Information has been published on Compass. Payment of \$5.50 by BPay (details on your family statement sent by email) or Compass Pay is required by **next Tuesday**, 8th December.



Year 6 Graduation Celebration

Graduation Ceremony

Our Year 6 Graduation Ceremony will be held on **Tuesday 15th December**.

Event information has been published on Compass. Payment of \$25 by BPay (details on your family statement sent by email) or Compass Pay is required by **next Thursday**, 10th December. CSEF cannot be used for this event.



Big Day In



This celebration day for Year 6 students will be held on **Thursday 17th December**.

Students can wear casual clothes on this day.

Event information has been published on Compass. Payment of \$25 by BPay (details on your family statement sent by email) or Compass Pay is required by **next Friday**, 11th December. CSEF can be applied to this event if applicable.

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**

Library



**PLEASE
RETURN
YOUR
LIBRARY
BOOKS**

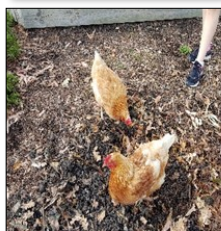
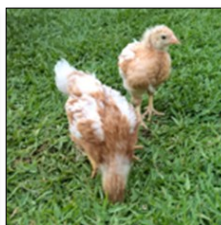
Return Library Books - URGENT!

Thanks to everyone who have returned Library books.

We still have LOTS of books loaned out though. 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

Sustainability



Photos: Marita Steward

Farewell Henny Penny and Chicken Little

Henny Penny and Chicken Little came from the Year 2 Growth and Change educational program in 2015. This week we say goodbye to Chicken Little.

Thank you to everyone who became part of their community. The coup is now empty and we will welcome new additions to our school early in the new school year.

Wipe Out Waste - Rubbish Free Lunches are back!

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.**



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Aussie Backyard Bird Count - 2020 Results

2020 proved to be a record breaking year with the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Following is an excerpt from the website:

Australia counts more than 4.6 million birds in 7 days!

In its seventh year, the Aussie Backyard Bird Count saw record-breaking numbers of people heading to their backyards and local green spaces to count their local birds. Together we counted more than 4.6 million birds across the nation, compared to 2019's 3.4 million. The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is quickly becoming one of Australia's biggest citizen science events and it's an activity that attracts counters of all ages. From 19-25 October a record number of young people took part in the count, with numbers of participating schools rising to more than 1,500.

There are many more opportunities to be involved:



With Birdlife Australia offering so many opportunities to be an active contributor and help make a difference, why not visit the website to learn more at <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

The 2021 Aussie Backyard Bird Count will be held from 18th to 24th October.

Ms Steward and the Sustainability Captains

Munch & Crunch Canteen



The Canteen will close NEXT FRIDAY, 11th December.

As previously advised, sausage rolls will be available every day, but the following items are not available to order:

- ★ Baked Potato
- ★ Rainbow Rice
- ★ Chicken Burgers

Maria Vlahos
Canteen Manager

Parents & Friends News



Secondhand Uniform Donations

Families are now allowed to drop off uniforms to be donated at school. These items should be in clearly marked bags and put into the Lost Property boxes, or handed into the School Office. Don't forget to remove names on uniforms, and please don't donate items that have old logos.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who attended the final PFA meeting for 2020 on Tuesday night, and everyone who has participated and contributed to our events during the year. Special thanks to the Committee members, including Betty Ciorciari, Caz Mott, Somya Rastogi, Andrea Fyfe and Kaye Nolan.

Many thanks to those families who are leaving the EHPS community as their children move to other schools. A big thank you to Andrea Fyfe who has made a huge contribution to the PFA – organising highly successful School Carnivals, maintaining the stock of prizes given out to children, coordinating the Entertainment Books, and organising events like the Trivia Night, to name just a few. Many thanks also go to Kathryn Barton for always being available to help with events, Sharon Leong for assisting with various activities including the popular Mango fundraiser, Pauline Aikman who was involved with several events and contributed over many years, and Steph Trace who has volunteered on many occasions and will be remembered for her efforts with the Hampers and Hay for Hope drought appeal.

The PFA thanks the Banking team who have operated the School Banking program for many years, including the most recent contributors Angela Millan, Erica Baddeley, Amanda Kelsall, Katy Smith, Sushma Joshi, and Steph Trace.

I too will be moving on as my daughter moves school at the end of this year. EHPS provides our children with an incredible start to their education and the sense of community amongst children, teachers, staff and parents is invaluable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making this possible, and to wish you every success in the future.

Finally, Betty Ciorciari will be leading the PFA until at least the AGM next March (if not longer) where a new Committee will be formally elected. Please consider getting involved and sharing the responsibility to ensure we keep our invaluable sense of community.



Contacting the PFA

Contact us by email using ehpspfa@gmail.com.

Fiona Nicholson Stocker
PFA President & Mum of Allison, 40

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. Information and the enrolment form were provided via Compass. Please complete and email your requested days of care back to me. Do not send your forms to the Office or classroom teacher.

Before and After School Care

Bookings are not required for Before or After Care. Families who are currently enrolled in the program are able to use the Before and After School Care Program when care is required.

Accounts

I will be in contact with families about account payments.

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

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.



**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



3 WAYS TO STAY SAFE WHILE YOU'RE OUT



Stay 1.5 metres
away from others



Wear a face
covering



Wash your
hands regularly

If you have symptoms, stay home.

STAYING
APART KEEPS
US TOGETHER

Visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

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