Dear parents and friends of our Essex Heights community,

Parent Forum: Curriculum & Learning at EHPS

Over 50 parents attended our Parent Forum on Curriculum and Learning at EHPS on Tuesday evening. Our two consultants from Language of Learning presented the research behind our school’s direction with respect to curriculum planning and teaching practice. Parents were very interested in the research and the development of SOLO Taxonomy, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, as well as the concept of surface to deep learning. At the end there was an opportunity for questions, and from the feedback I have received, the evening was very beneficial. Parents have indicated to me that they have gained a greater understanding of what happens in the classroom, how we are striving for greater consistency between classrooms, and that now they are clearer that children have a better understanding of how they are progressing in their learning.

Term 1 ends NEXT FRIDAY, Friday 5th April.
Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm.
After School Care is available
Information sent home:

Year/Group  Notice/Activity
Whole school (all students) ......  Fun Run sponsorship form

This week’s information on Compass:

Year/Group  Compass News
Year 1  Homework Update
Whole School  Fun Run - an exciting whole school event
Hot Cross Bun fundraiser - orders due

Compass Events:

Year/Group  Notice/Activity & Due Date
Year 5  A Day in the life of high school
Year 5 Sovereign Hill Camp 2019 - 29 April
Selected Students  Sayembara Lisan - Indonesian Speaking Competition - 28 March

Assembly: Monday 1st April

At Assembly on Monday:

• School Banking winners
• Student of the Week & Baik Sekali awards

Note: Items listed above are correct at time of publication, but may be subject to change.

Assembly starts at 2.40pm in the Hall. All welcome.

2019 School Charges & Voluntary Fees

All families with outstanding charges were provided with a family statement sent by email at the beginning of this week. Please pay any outstanding charges before the end of term, and in particular, please note the following:

• 2019 school charges and voluntary fees are now overdue, and are payable before the end of Term 1 unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with Barbara McCann, our Business Manager.
• Instrumental Music Program Cycle 1 - due by next Friday, 5th April.
• Singapore International Choir Festival - deposit due by Monday 1st April.

Our preferred payment methods are BPay (details on your family statement) or Compass Pay. If you are not able to use these payment options to pay the 2019 School Charges, print out the Payment Advice form (copy available from the school website - see Notices in Parent Resources under the Communication menu, or use the Notices quicklink on the home page), fill it in and bring to the Office with your payment - credit card/Eftpos (MasterCard or Visa; minimum transaction $20), cash (correct amount; no change held at the Office), or cheque (payable to Essex Heights Primary School).

With the end of term fast approaching, please check our lost property boxes if you have lost any clothing at school. Four lost property boxes are located around the school - outside the Eucalyptus, Banksia, and Violet buildings and the Stadium. If your child attends the BASC program, also check the Hall. Unclaimed, unnamed, items may be offered for sale at the next PFA Secondhand Uniform sale in Term 2.

The best way to ensure your child has a misplaced item returned promptly, is to clearly label all items that come to school with their name, preferably first and last names.
Technology Holiday Guide for Parents

Recently a few parents have asked me for advice with respect to the use of electronic devices particularly over holiday periods. My short answer is always to have children active and playing ‘real’ games inside or preferably outside so that they can exercise and be challenged. I always believe that screen time should be strictly controlled by parents. Phones, iPad or computers are not substitutes for conversations, social interactions and creative play. I found this article by Martine Oglethorpe, who is an accredited speaker with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner. She regularly presents to parent groups, schools and teachers. I hope you find it useful.

As holidays approach, the role that screens and devices will play becomes an increasing concern for parents. Days when kids are usually tied up with school and activities make way for many an idle hour and, as such, parents fear those hours will be spent largely engaged with a screen or gaming console. While there is certainly no harm in some well-balanced screen time and developmentally appropriate online activities, we must remember that, as parents, we have an important role in helping our kids manage and balance that screen time. Here are a few things we can do:

**Understand the battle**

It is important parents know the beast they are dealing with. It is easy to shout from another room to get off a screen or whinge to our friends that ‘kids of today’ are all addicted to their phones, but we need to recognise the pull that many of these devices have. The social networks are designed to keep us liking, commenting and sharing. The games cajole us into having ‘just one more’ turn at being the last man standing. These technologies tempt us to reach just one more level, or to scroll for just a few minutes more. Our brains experience a dopamine release and a sense of insufficiency when we use a device. There is always something else to do or something else to scroll through, or one more YouTube video to watch. So our kids are up against it when trying to control their time on a device. We need to help them with that.

**Get outside**

We can complain that kids never go outside and play anymore, but sometimes we have to physically get out there with them or offer opportunities in which being outside and active play are appealing. We have to work a little harder at this today because we are competing with a device that answers many of our kids’ perceived needs. We need them to know that their needs are greater and more varied than what their screens can offer.

**Have some rules**

Despite their apparent dislike of rules around technology, kids will (one day) appreciate having boundaries to help them manage their screen time. Rules can be established regarding time limits, devices in bedrooms, device-free meal times, etc. Whatever you decide is important, be sure that you have those discussions with your kids. And any discussion around rules or consequences should happen away from the screens so they are clear on the expectations. (Talking about their screen-time habits while they are just about to be the last man standing on Fortnite is probably not going to make for engaging conversation.)

**One console on one television ... outside the bedroom**

Having only one television that is connected to a gaming console or to Netflix is a good way of ensuring that the device gets shared and one child doesn’t monopolise the screen. And leave consoles out of bedrooms where the appeal of just one more quick game can very quickly rob them of important sleep time.

**Role model**

Make sure you are showing your kids how you want them to be. Have times when the devices are put away and you give full attention to the people around you. Don’t answer calls or emails at the dinner table. Don’t fall asleep with a device landing on your forehead. Take time to get outside and do things active and in nature. Don’t ever use a phone while driving. Use the Screen Time feature on iOS products to monitor just how you are using your technology and whether you could be making some changes. Kids learn more from what we do than what we say.

We know the technology isn’t going anywhere, and we know there are many wonderful benefits that screens provide. But ensure that holidays and downtime hours can be filled with many different experiences and in ways that leave your kids in control, even if you have to work a little harder to give them that.
**Around the School**

It is very important for students to have instant recall of mathematical facts. An example of this is fast mental arithmetic and instant recall e.g. times tables. This is called Automaticity. If children can have excellent number fact skills it will help them with all of their applied learning in mathematics. Mr Tang, our Mathematics Learning Specialist, has written an article in a previous newsletter about this.

When I visited 56C this week (see photos above), I was so impressed by the work the students had been doing to improve their times tables. Mr Cavill and the class had developed a leagues table to chart their improvement and growth. Every week students are given 100 times tables to complete and they are scored on their accuracy and time. The league table in the class not only measure who is the fastest or most accurate, but also who has improved the most from one week to the next. What a great initiative 56C!!

I look forward to seeing amazing automaticity in your answers to your times tables.

The 1 Minute Film Competition is run by ATOM - Australian Teachers of Media, and is open to Australian and New Zealand students. The theme is Loyalty, and it is sponsored by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Years 5 and 6 students are making an animation film looking at loyalty to the British Empire, loyalty to Australia, and then Gallipoli and loyalty to mates.

I look forward to seeing you at Grandparents and Special Friends day next week.
Student Permissions

Parents/guardians are required to provide student permissions for:

- Local excursions
- Student photos for displays, media & website
- Internet use, publication of children’s work on school website, student contract
  **Notes:** access to software regularly used in the classroom that support and enhance the curriculum (eg StudyLadder and MangaHigh Mathematics) require consent for this permission or students to access and use these programs. This permission also requires student consent.
- Viewing of PG rated media
- Headlice inspections
- Medications reminder

The giving of consent for student permissions is now to be completed on Compass, and will remain for the duration of your child’s enrolment at EHPS. Consent for student permissions are now overdue. Please take the time this weekend to complete your child’s permissions if your permission consents are still outstanding. Please refer to the screenshots below showing where to locate the permissions on Compass.

A copy of the documentation with explanation of each permission and information on where to access the permissions to give your consent, is accessible on Compass under School Documentation. It will also be on the school website - use the Notices quicklink on the Home Page, or Parent Resources under the Communication menu on the Home Page.

If you do not give your consent for a permission, or want to change your consent at any time, please advise in writing using the school email - Essex.Heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Enrolment in 2020

Enrolments for 2020 entry are now being accepted. If you, friends, family or neighbours, have a child due to start school in 2020 (born on or before 30th April 2015), please collect enrolment forms from the Office. Enrolment in Prep 2020 should be submitted by Friday 31st May. This greatly assists our planning and preparation for the coming year, and ensures that children can fully participate in the school transition program.

Prospective families are invited to attend a school tour. Tours are held on Thursdays and Fridays at 9.30am. Bookings are essential - please contact the Office on 9807 4944.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Term 1 will culminate with our annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day next Friday, 5th April, between 11.30am and 2pm. The day will include a concert, class visits and a picnic lunch. We are looking forward to hosting all grandparents and special friends on that day.

On this last day of term, students will be dismissed at 2.30pm. However, some students may be leaving earlier with their grandparent or special friend. If this is the case, parents/guardians must put an absence note on Compass before Friday 5th April which must include in the description the name and relationship to the student of the person collecting them from school. If an absence note has not been entered to Compass, Gael or Jo in the Office will need to speak to a parent/guardian for consent before the child can leave.

If your child is leaving before the 2.30pm dismissal on Friday 5th April with their grandparent or special friend, please do the following:

1. Parent/guardian enter an absence note on Compass by beginning of school day (8.50am) on Friday, specifying the name and relationship to the student in the description of the absence note, eg “John will be collected from school by his grandparents, Bill & Wendy Smith.”
2. Before arrival at school, parent/guardian to advise grandparent or special friend that they are to attend at the Office to sign the student out if leaving before 2.30pm.
3. At school, grandparent/special friend comes to the Office, the child will be signed out by Office staff, and a green pass to be given to the teacher will be provided.
4. Child and grandparent/special friend depart promptly!

Mathematics Garden

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of the School,

Hong Jin, Maggie, Lucia, Ron, Jaslene and Kylin are working on the Mathematics Garden together with the help of Mr Perini, Mrs Austin, and Ina. On the aerial photo (right) is an approximate location for the Mathematics Garden. The area circled in blue is where the Meditation Garden is going to be, and the area circled in red is where the Mathematics Garden is going to be.

We would like suggestions on what mathematical activities we should put in it. Please place any suggestions in the Mathematics Garden Box in the Office.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely
The Mathematics Garden Team
(Hong Jin, Maggie, Lucia, Ron, Jaslene & Kylin)
Years 5 & 6 Summer Inter-School Sport Finals

Our Softball Girls and Boys teams competed in the finals of the Summer season of School Sport Victoria’s Mulgrave District Inter-School Sporting Competition today.

Softball Boys A

& Softball Girls A

The Softball Boys A got off to a great start with six homeruns in the first innings. The second innings started to get more intense, with Mount View coming back at us. In the third innings it was close, but the boys won by one run! One of the boys’ highlights was Bihan and Tom smashing the ball out of the park! The score was 8 to 9, Essex Heights winning a successful game in the grand final, and moving onto Division.

The Softball Girls A had a close start in the first innings; it was a tied start of the game. The next innings was tough, issues started happening, and a lot of confusion came around. We figured it out, and played another innings. The girls were playing amazing, and pushing through, it was a success in the end. Over all, Essex girls won, scoring 19 runs to Mount View 18 runs. One of our best highlights was Ava’s big hit into outfield, thankfully getting us all home. We won the grand final and move on to Division.

Health & PE

Fun Run
The whole school Fun Run is fast approaching ...

Next Thursday, 4th April, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm on Essex Heights Reserve (the council oval next to the school).

Every child participates and collects points for their house. We welcome family and friends to come along, support and assist with this exciting whole school house competition and earn extra points for your house by dressing in your child/ren’s house colours: Boyd (blue), Drysdale (red), Lindsay (yellow), Nolan (green).

We need your help next Thursday! If you are available, please sign up to assist at one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and make this day a huge success for all! Don’t forget to wear your house colours on the day! Remember, you must hold a Working With Children Check and have presented your card to the Office to be copied, and read and signed your acknowledgement of our Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct to be eligible to volunteer. Click here to sign up.

Cross Country Training
Results on the day for students 9/10, 11 and 12/13 years will be recorded to select the school cross country team. Cross country training will be on:

When: Tuesday 2nd April from 8.15am to 8.45am
Where: Junior school oval, sign in at the Stadium
Who: All students, parents/guardians, and staff welcome
ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day is on 25th April, our first Thursday back in Term 2. Our annual school ceremony will be held on Wednesday 24th April from 11.30am to 1.30pm around the flag pole. All community members are invited to join us.

This year for ANZAC Day each grade is putting together a care package for current serving soldiers. The students are in the process of writing letters and making cards. We are looking for donations of AUSSIE GOODNESS: Vegemite, Shapes, snakes, nuts, chocolate, ANZAC biscuits, and instant coffee sachets. Items need to be small and preferably individually wrapped! You can bring your AUSSIE GOODNESS to your classroom teacher, and they will pass them on to be packaged up and sent them away. Thank you for your support.

Berita Bahasa Indonesia

Sayembara Lisan Indonesian Speaking Competition

The Sayembara Lisan is on Saturday 11th May.

Parents/Guardians have been sent information on Compass, including the competition material, as follows:

- Prep to Year 2: Pelangi – pelangi (click here) and Bangun Tidur (click here)
- Years 3 & 4: Layang Layang (click here) and Awan (click here)

Sayembara Lisan practises will be held on Tuesdays at Recess, starting next week and in term 2, in the Indonesian Room.

If you have any questions, please speak to Bu Sarah (Sarah Edwards).

Terima Kasih,

Bu Sarah

Before & After School Care

If you have not used the EHPS BASC Program in over 60 days, your CCS funding will cease. If you need to access the program after this period, and you want your CCS funding reinstated, contact me on davis.paul.d@edumail.com.au and I will re-open your account. You will need to then get on your myGov account and reconfirm the guardianship of your children. Once this process is completed successfully, your CCS will be reactivated.

The April Vacation Care Program is now out, and enrolments are being taken. Please enrol early, as spaces are limited.

With the end of the term upon us, could families please settle their accounts.

On the last day of term, Friday 5th April, the After School Care program will be operating from 2.30pm.

If you have any questions pertaining to the program, especially in regards to the CCS funding, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance - phone 9807 2615 or 0417 941 986, or email davis.paul.d@edumail.com.au.vic.gov.au

Thank you,

Paul Davis
Coordinator
Munch & Crunch Canteen

Canteen Roster

Monday 1st April - 11.15am to 1.45pm ................. Sarah Cobelli
Wednesday 3rd April - 9.00am to 1.45pm ............ Angela Millan & Vicky Milevski
Friday 5th April - 9.00am to 1.45pm ........................ James Douglas

Please remember to sign the Visitor’s Register in the Office before coming to the Canteen.

If you are unable to do your rostered duty, or you have any queries, please contact Maria as soon as possible on 0409 934 573.

Maria Vlahos
Canteen Manager

Share The Dignity

Every April and August Share The Dignity ask the public to donate pads and tampons to collection points throughout the country. At the end of the month we donate the thousands of packets of unopened sanitary products to our partner charities.

Homeless women need your help.

On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless. 44% are female. 27% are children under the age of 18. Family violence is the number one reason people present to homeless services. 55% of females cite this reason. We need your donation.

When you donate sanitary products to Share The Dignity, you’re donating much more than pads and tampons. You’re giving a woman experiencing homelessness or financial crisis the essentials, so she doesn’t need to choose between food and dignity.

Next time you’re doing your shopping, keep in mind: one box for me, one box for her.

Please deliver your donation to the Health Centre.

www.sharethedignity.com.au

Parents & Friends News

Please place your orders for our Hot Cross Bun fundraiser by Monday morning, 1st April, at the very latest. Baker’s Delight hot cross buns can be purchased - a bag of 6 for $7.50, and $2 per bag will go to our school! They will be delivered on the morning of Friday 5th April, which is Grandparents’ & Special Friends Day and the last day of term.

Please click here or type https://tinyurl.com/EHPSHotCross into your web browser to help with distributing the Hot Cross buns between 9am and 10am on Friday 5th April.

The sponsorship forms for the Fun Run have been distributed to each child this week in the lead up to the big event next Thursday, 4th April. Please encourage your children to seek sponsorship from family and friends this weekend, as it is a major fundraising event for our school. Prizes will be advertised next week. Please come and encourage the children on the day.
Parents & Friends News continued

Entertainment Membership

Pre-order the NEW 2019-2020 Entertainment Membership and receive bonus offers you can use right away - click here to pre-order, or click here to view bonus offers.

Support our fundraising!

PRE-ORDER NOW!

Just $70

Hurry! Bonus Early Bird Offers. Limited Time Only.

Essex Heights Primary School is fundraising with Entertainment!

Your support really helps our School, so we're thrilled to let you know about special bonus Early Bird Entertainment Membership Offers for loyal supporters.

Pre-order the NEW 2019 | 2020 Entertainment Membership and receive bonus offers you can use right away!

SUPPORT US NOW

"The Entertainment Membership is great value. With lots of instant savings, it more than outweighs the price. There is something for everyone – casual and fine dining, adventure and family activities. I couldn't live without it. Plus, I get to support a good cause." – Zena B, Sydney

Contact the PFA by email on ehpspfa@gmail.com.

See you around the school,

**Fiona Nicholson Stocker**

(Mum of Allison, 3F)
New Insights articles accessible on our school website:

- The messages all boys need to hear
- Responding constructively to the Christchurch shooting

Our school membership of Parenting Ideas also entitles our community to access webinars free of charge up to a month after the presentation:

- **Switching on your child’s strengths** - available until 6th April.
- **Balancing extra-curricular activities** - Tuesday 2nd April at 8pm; available until 2nd May.
  
  Join Dr Jodi Richardson in this webinar to understand the trend towards increasing enrolments in structured after-school activities, the benefits and the drawbacks for kids, the importance of free play for children, the implications of over scheduling on children’s mental health and how to create balance in the lives of your children.

  If you are unable to make the scheduled time, you can simply register and access the recording later.

  How you can register:
  2. Click ‘Add to cart’
  3. Click ‘View cart’
  4. Enter the code BALANCING and click ‘Apply Coupon’. Remember to enter our school’s name so that they can verify your eligibility. Your discount of $37 will be applied to the order.
  5. Click ‘Proceed to checkout’
  6. Fill in your account details. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your parenting material
  7. Click ‘Place Order’
  8. This voucher code is valid until 2 May 2019, so we encourage you to redeem it right away to secure your free webinar.

For further information, including the 2019 webinar series, go to our school website.
Community Noticeboard

Products & services advertised in Contact are placed on a paid basis and are not necessarily being promoted by Essex Heights Primary School.

Join your local Joey Scouts

Groups in Monash District are now recruiting girls and boys aged 5-7 years.

Contact us now to hop in on the action!

More info at scoutsvictoria.com.au

Enquiries:
Liesel Tozer: 0420 858 396
dlj2.monash2@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Congratulations Essex Heights Primary School!

Ashwood High School would like to celebrate your aspirational graduating student from the ‘Class of 2018’.

Ashwood ACE
An approved SEAL program
Accelerated Curriculum & Enrichment

Alex Clee

Ashwood was successful in placing a place in our highly competitive 2018 Select Entry – ACE (Accelerated Curriculum & Enrichment) Program. Alex will remain in the same, small class until the beginning of VCE, at which time he may choose to take a university subject.

Applications are now open for our ACE Program for Year 7 to 10. Please register your interest online and note our testing date on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

Scholarships are available in the following areas:
- Academic
- Sporting Excellence
- Leadership & Community Spirit
- Instrumental Music
- Performing Arts

Further information will also be available at our Open Day & Night, Ashwood Revealed, on Wednesday 1 May 2019.

EHPS Contact Issue 9 - 29 March 2019
NEED MORE ME TIME TO KEEP FIT AS A BUSY MUM?
Feel great and look fabulous in less than 1 hour a day!

GET YOUR 7 DAY FREE ME TIME PASS

Drop your kids off at school and pop into BFT Oakleigh, it’s time to reclaim your health & fitness.

💖 50 mins of fat burning and toning
💖 Build friendships with group fitness classes
💖 12-week transformation challenges
💖 Fun social events
💖 Track your progress and results
💖 Class progressions and variety

BODYFITTRAINING.COM/OAKLEY
0427 665 521
FACTORY 7/2 RAILWAY AVENUE, OAKLEY

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® BODYFIT_OAKLEY

ASHWOOD REVEALED

Location:
Ashwood High School, Vennam Drive Ashwood
Tours & Information Sessions:
9:15am School Tour
10:15am Principal’s Address
11:15am School Tour
1:00pm School Tour
5:30pm School Tour
6:00pm School Tour
6:30pm Express Tour
7:00pm Principal’s Address

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT
Wednesday 1 MAY 2019

Vision Inspired Action

Book online or phone us today
www.ashwood.vic.edu.au
Ph: 03 9807 1333
Next Thursday, 4th April 2019
2.30pm to 3.30pm
Essex Heights Reserve
(Council oval next to the school)

All welcome

Dress in your child’s house colours to earn extra House points.