Singapore International Choral Festival

Last week was an amazing experience for Tanya Dolence and the 15 children in our Essex Heights Chamber Choir as they competed in the 2016 Singapore International Choral Festival. Our travelling party of 30, including parents and siblings, left Tullamarine on Monday for the eight-hour flight to Singapore. On arrival George, who would be our tour guide for the week, met us. Throughout the week we enjoyed tours of the city sights, rehearsal sessions, concerts with world-class choirs, choral workshops, choral exchanges with other competing choirs, public performances, fun at Universal Studios, swimming in the hotel pool (a highlight for the children) …… and of course the competition.
We competed in the Under 12yo Section against 9 other choirs from across Asia, including Hong Kong, China, Indonesia and of course Singapore. We were warmly welcomed wherever we went as the first Australian Choir to participate in this festival. In fact, to quote the Festival Director Lim Ai Hooi in her opening welcome:

“We welcome the participation of 40 choirs from all over the Asia-Pacific, including our first participating choir from Australia, Essex Heights PS Chamber Choir”

The children sang beautifully at every opportunity and in the competition achieved a score of 69 points, which received a Bronze level award. The parents, Tanya and I were extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout the trip, and of the way in which they performed.

An international trip like this has so many benefits for the children and our school. It certainly broadens our horizons with regard to music and our own choral program, allowing Tanya and the children to see what is possible …… we saw some amazing children’s choirs. The professional feedback the choir received from world class conductors. There are also the inter-cultural experiences of travelling to Singapore and meeting and interacting with children from across Asia.

I would like to thank the families of the children who participated for supporting this first venture of ours overseas, and allowing their children to participate. Thanks also to the terrific group of parents who travelled with us and were so supportive of Tanya and the Choir. Particular mention to Anne Choy and Magdalene Lim for their great work before the trip to assist us with many of the organizational and planning matters. Thanks also to our Business Manager Barb McCann who was of great assistance with organizing the trip, supporting both the parents and Tanya.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Essex Heights School Council who were behind this from the beginning and provided the much needed funds for our staff travel costs.

Finally, well done to the children on the way they represented their school and country in this event, they were truly wonderful. To Tanya Dolence, thank you for your passion to make this event possible, your wonderful preparation of the choir and your leadership whilst we were away. This has extended what is already a fantastic Music Program, to another level. Well done Essex Heights!
Thanks to our Education Support (ES) Staff

August is “ES Recognition Month” where we have the chance to formally thank a group of people who make an invaluable and indispensable contribution to our school. Their roles are diverse and include those who work in the Office, those who work supporting individual students in classrooms, first aid & music, running our canteen and the OSHC program. The one thing they have in common is a desire to support the school and to help our children and our school community. They are dedicated, hardworking individuals who will do whatever it takes to meet the staff and childrens’ needs. They really help to make Essex Heights an excellent place to work and learn. Quite simply we could not operate without these people, so on behalf of the children, parents and teachers ……. Thank you to our fantastic ES Team!!

OSHC Program

Whilst talking about the ES Staff, I would like to highlight the wonderful service that our Outside School Hours Care program provides to our families. Paul Davis and his team run an outstanding program that is greatly appreciated by the children and families who rely on having this after hours service at school. The OSHC program is a crucial part of our school community and I would like to thank all its staff for the important contribution they make to Essex Heights.
House Athletics Sports

Friday August 5th the Yr 3-6 children and staff travelled to the Bill Sewart Athletics track in East Burwood for the Essex Heights Athletics Sports. The children competed in a range of events against the other children in their age groups. They certainly enjoyed the experience and especially the chance to compete at a professional venue. The staff were impressed with the way the children gave their best efforts in each competition and also supported each other when they were spectating. Points were awarded to their Houses after each round and I would like to congratulate the children in Boyd for securing the most points for the day. This event also gave the teachers a chance to identify the children who will go on to represent Essex Heights at the District Athletics Carnival later in the Term. Thanks to the teachers for their hard work in staging this event for the children, and to the many parents who made themselves available on the day as extra ‘officials’ ...... much appreciated. Well done also to our Yr 6 House Captains for their leadership of their teams on the day. The biggest thanks goes to our Phys Ed teacher Ben Wooster for his meticulous planning and preparation that ensured a great day for all involved. Thanks Ben!

Essex Heights Yr 2 Goes to Rio

The Year 2 students gathered together this week to speak live with a TV crew member, Paul, who is working at the Rio Olympics. Paul was standing poolside and showed us where the divers, synchronised swimmers and water polo players compete. The students asked some really great questions. The best part was when Paul spotted a diving Bronze Medallist from Great Britain, Jack Laugher, and asked him to say hello to us. Jack Laugher was kind enough to give us a big wave and to show us his medal, which was much larger than expected.

See you around the school,

Andrew
Origin Energy is running a competition for students in Years 3 to 8. It is called **LittleBigIdeas**. 

Students have to come up with a big idea. "It could be a new invention, an improvement to something that already exists or a clever idea that helps make the world around us a better place."

The three winners in each age group will fly to the USA for an all expenses paid innovation adventure, visiting NASA Kennedy Space Centre, Epcot Theme Park at Disneyworld and Ripley's Believe It or Not.

**Interested?**

Describe your little BIGidea in 200 words or less. To help explain or illustrate your idea, you can also create and submit a video, image or diagram. Online entries close 11:59pm AEST 30/09/16. Mail entries must be sent by 30/09/16 & received by last mail 7/09/16.

**Rules**

- If you're making a video, it must not exceed one minute in length. Videos longer than a minute will mean your entry is automatically disqualified. Sorry!
- If you're uploading an image or diagram, you shouldn't use it as a way of getting around the 200 word limit. Having lots of text on an image may count against you. Some text is acceptable. Use your judgement.
- You cannot enter more than once – so make sure you’re happy with your entry before you hit ‘submit’. If you submit two entries, we can only accept your first entry.
- Major Prize winners must be available to travel to the USA within 12 months of the winners being announced.

**Hints**

- Every idea is welcome. No idea is too little or too big. The important thing is how it can help people or make their lives easier.
- Winning entries will be chosen based on an exceptional demonstration of originality, creativity, practicality, imagination and innovation. You should aim to come up with something that will blow our judges’ minds.
- We’re looking for original ideas, but we understand this isn’t always as simple as it sounds. If you find your idea already exists in some shape or form, try thinking about a fresh new take on it – could your idea be a new and improved version, for example?
- If you had unlimited money and lots of help, it should theoretically be possible to make your invention or bring your idea to life.

2015 Winners

Oscar Robert Mason (Years 7 & 8) was recognized for thinking up the 'Baby Buddy' a baby seat designed to alert people to the presence of a child trapped in a hot car by utilising the car horn and a bright light.

Greta Cummins (Grades 3 & 4) won for her fantastic vehicle safety product – a small device that contacts emergency services once your car’s air bag has been deployed and alerts them to your exact position using GPS technology.

William Grame (Grades 5 & 6) was awarded for his design of a small, lightweight test strip disposal unit that can fit into a diabetic’s testing kit. Start Thinking and Good Luck!

Mrs Austin and Ms Steward
Science Coordinators

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Hi everyone

This week notices will be going home regarding the Father’s Day breakfast on Thursday 1 September, and the Father’s Day stall on Friday 2 September.

If attending the Breakfast please return the reply slip no later than the 31st of August to assist us with catering.

We have received some great raffle and door prizes including a Luna Park Unlimited Family Ride Pass and a $200 Good Guys Voucher.

If you know of a business that could donate a prize to support our Father’s Day breakfast, please let us know (ehpspfa@gmail.com).

If you can assist with either of these events on the day please sign up for a time slot below, the more the merrier.

Father’s Day breakfast –
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084aada829a2ff2-fathers5

Father’s Day stall -
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084aada829a2ff2-fathers4

Our next PFA meeting will be on Wednesday 24 August at 7:30pm in the staff room. Hope to see you there.

Andrea F
Bread Fundraising

In addition to the Money Munchers, The Junior School Council is raising funds for the children of Timor Leste through bread run from JT’s Bakery in Pinewood.

For a gold coin donation, bread is available in the staffroom for the staff and will be available for the parents and friends after school Tuesday to Friday.

Thank you to JT’s Bakery for providing the bread.

Please support this worthy cause. We appreciate your efforts.

The Junior School Council

FOR SALE (BEST OFFER)

GUINEA PIG/ SMALL ANIMAL HUTCH ON STAND
WITH CASTOR WHEELS
STRONG PLASTIC BASE WITH METAL & WIRE FRAME,
CAN BE REMOVED FROM STAND. H 1000mm (on Stand)
H 500mm X L 1180mm  D 970mm
GOOD CONDITION
CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 9807 4944

+SCHOOL BANKING NEWS ++++++++++

Last term we had a great result:

The school received $640 in commission from the Commonwealth Bank for term 2

Why and how to join

We encourage parents to join their children up for banking as it is a great way for them to learn to count money, learn to save, raise funds for the school but also it is lots of fun for the children when they order their little rewards.

For your children to join please open an account at any Commonwealth Bank branch or over the internet if you are already a customer. Forms are also available at the office via Gael.
Competition

National competition:
Make 15 deposits through the school by the end of term 3 for a chance to win a family holiday to visit Australia Zoo.

State competition:
All you have to do here is bank 3 times in term 3, and yes, there is still time to do so for a chance to win:
- a camping kit
- an instant camera
- a magazine pack
- a playstation 4 pack (for this visit www.commbank.com.au/prizelights and fill in your details once you have made 3 deposits)

Rewards program
Ask your child to check whether they are eligible to order a reward. A list of eligible children is posted in the PFA notices box located in the walkway between the library and banksia building. And if they are on the lists please get them to fill out a reward order form with their name, class, student ID and reward item or simply write us a note with the above details.

Reward items currently available:
- Eraser Pen
- Dollarmites Money Box
- ET DVD
- Galaxy Glider (Frisbee)
- Intergalactic rocket (whistling rocket to throw between people)
- Jump and Skip rope
- Pat Bag Tag
- Outer Space themed Money Box
- Writers Set

Banking process
- parents open bank account for their child at the bank
- children bring yellow pouch with filled in bank book and money to school on Monday mornings
- bank books go into the grey pouch that is in every class
- volunteers take money and slip out of the bank books and put silver token in bank books
- every deposit is entered into the banks computer program
- when a child has made 10 deposits the silver tokens are swapped for a gold token and the child is now eligible to order a reward (reward card is added to bank book)
- books get returned to class
- child fills out reward slip and sends it back to school with their banking the next week
- rewards are ordered from the bank and usually delivered to school 2 weeks later

 Helpers
Thank you to all volunteers who give up their Monday morning every week or some weeks to support this program. The program couldn’t run without you. If anybody would like to join the school banking team please see us in the Hall on Monday mornings.

If you have any questions contact Stefanie on sscanning10@gmail.com.
CANTEEN

MONDAY  
11.00 a.m.  
22nd August  
Michelle McFarlane, Helen Stephanou

WEDNESDAY  
10.00 a.m.  
25th August  
Georgie Kelly, Prue Mahar

FRIDAY  
10.00 a.m.  
27th August  
Jan Mattrow, Penny Fleming

If you are unable to help please ensure that you advise Maria as soon as possible.
DON’T FORGET –  
Please report to the Front Office to sign the Visitor’s Book and get a Visitor’s Label  
BEFORE proceeding to the Canteen. Any queries phone Maria on 0409 934 573

ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Calendar

AUGUST 2016

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**COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**

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

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**Join our own world-renowned choir for a wonderful afternoon of glorious harmony and ensemble power in the spirit of the Welsh valleys**

**The Australian Welsh Male Choir**

*Côr Meibion Cymreig Awstralia*

2pm Sunday 18th September 2016

**St Faith’s Anglican Church**

4 Charles St, Glen Iris

**Tickets $25**

www.trybooking.com/MGZB or Parish Office 98895086

Wednesday: 9 am - 12 noon

Friday: 9 am - 11 am or at the door.

www.auswelshmalechoir.org.au
Platypus Junction Group is a privately owned and family operated early learning and childcare centre delivering high quality long day care and education for families with children from 3months - 5years old for twenty years.

Platypus Junction Group is opening a brand new purpose built early learning and childcare centre at 5 Nexus Business Park, Mulgrave.

Platypus Junction Mulgrave is situated on level 3 and 4 at 5 Nexus Court, Mulgrave. Level 3 will house our welcome area and five separate age grouped rooms from the babies nursery to 3 and 4-year-old Kindergartens with two level 3 outdoor learning areas.

The playground is a fabulous rooftop garden and adventure learning space. A landscaped green playground with fruit trees, citrus and veggie patches mixed with sandpits and water play features and wonderful spaces for stories and experimenting.

For more information or to enrol, visit: www.platypusjunction.com or speak with Felicity, Michelle or Rebecca on 1300 261 685

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**PINEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS...**

**THE ART OF ANIMALIA 2016**

**Tuesday 30th August 2016**

1st viewing: 3:30 - 4:30pm
GRAND OPENING at 6 - 7:30pm
with special guest; Author and Artist... GRAEME BASE
-ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION-

---

**Ashwood Football Club**

**BIGGEST KICK TO KICK**

Saturday the 20th of August at Essex Heights Reserve, Outlook rd Mt Waverley.

Ashwood FC are holding a fundraiser for the Anti-Cancer Council by having as many families as we can on the oval at half time of the Senior game.

(GOLD COIN ENTRY ONTO THE OVAL)

So bring your footy, Mum & Dad, Aunty & Uncles, Brothers & Sisters by at least 2.30pm and enjoy the day along with your family. All money raised will go the Anti-Cancer Council.

info@ashwoodsportsclub.com.au
www.ashwoodsportsclub.com.au
The LAB Burwood

A new computer club in Burwood for kids aged 10-18 with High Functioning Autism (Aspergers)

We have mentors to help you code, design, and create, or you can just chill out with your new friends and play games and chat.

Sign up today at thelab.org.au

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<td>$20.00 per session</td>
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GET THE LATEST SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS ON YOUR PHONE

DOWNLOAD THE FREE KONNECTIVE MOBILE APP

For iPhone users - get Konnective from the AppStore
- Download the App and click Register to create your account

For Android users - get Konnective from the Google Play Store.
- Download the App and click Register to create your account

For other smartphone devices or if you don’t have a smartphone, use our website version.

Once you have registered and logged in, go to My Connections to connect to the relevant school feeds.

For assistance or further information, please contact support@konnective.com.au or visit www.konnective.com.au

konnective.com.au
The NEW 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Book and Digital Memberships are available now and are packed with thousands of up to 50% OFF and 2-for-1 offers.

From every Membership we sell, 20% of the proceeds go towards our fundraising for ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL. The more Memberships we sell, the closer we get to our goal — so please forward this email to all your family and friends!

ORDER FROM US TODAY

For just $65, you'll receive over $20,000 worth of valuable offers.

Use just a few of these offers and you'll more than cover the cost of your Membership!