Welcome back to everyone from the holiday break. I trust that you were able to enjoy time with family and friends, relaxing and recharging for the weeks ahead. As you will note from the 'Important Dates' listed above, there is plenty happening and we look forward to another exciting Term at Essex Heights PS.

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Vietnam (and thank you to all the children and parents who have enquired), a very beautiful country with friendly and welcoming people ……. and great food! 

PFA Meeting, April 24th 7:30pm
I would like to remind parents about the upcoming PFA Meeting, 7:30pm on Wednesday April 24th in the Staffroom. As I wrote to you last Term in a Parent Bulletin, the PFA is an important group in our community working on behalf of all families for the children. If you are able to spare some time to come along to the general PFA Committee Meeting next week and offer your support and assistance that would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to discuss this further, please see me anytime at school. Alternatively, Betty Ciorciari as the PFA President would also be happy to chat.

Holiday Works
We had a number of projects completed over the holiday period.

- School Council has funded and approved the extending of the concrete path to the front of the Eucalyptus Building, reducing the area of granitic sand. This makes those areas far more functional for the children and teachers to use, and helps keep the classrooms cleaner as well. This work was carried out by Bulco Pty Ltd Concreting, a company of one of our parents, Tony Ciorciari. We are grateful to Tony and his crew who did a great job with minimal fuss and disruption to the school.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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School Council has also approved carpeting the portable classrooms occupied by 5R & 5S with new carpet tiles. This brings those rooms up to the standard of the rest of the school and is an improvement greatly appreciated by the teachers and children in those rooms.

Finally, we had an extensive holiday spring clean by our fabulous cleaning contractors Fazzino Cleaning. The team, led by Vin, do a great job on a daily basis to keep our school clean. Their extra efforts during the holiday period are greatly appreciated by all the children and staff as we begin the new Term with everything looking bright and clean.

**District Sport Results**
During the last weeks of Term 1 we had three teams competing in the District Finals for our Interschool Sport Competition. This was a great achievement for the children and teachers of Yr 5 & 6 and we are very proud of their efforts. The results on that day were;

Premiers – Boys Softball
Runners Up – Kanga 8’s Cricket Team C & Rounders

The Boys Softball Team has now qualified for the Regional/Zone Finals and we look forward to supporting them at this next level of competition.

Thanks to Ben Wooster and all the Yr 5/6 teachers and parents who trained, coached and supported the teams in Term 1.

**Education Week 2013**
The week allocated for the state-wide ‘Education Week’ is May 20th – 24th. This is an opportunity for schools to celebrate their programs and also invite visitors to tour on “Open Night”. Activities at Essex Heights include;

- Open Night – Monday, May 20th 6 – 8pm
- Individual school tours for prospective parents
- St Johns First Aid Course for all Children (conducted in class)
- Performance at The Glen by Chamber Choir and Strings on Thursday 23rd May
- Book Fair in the Library – May 16th – 22nd

More details closer to ‘Education Week’.

**Pupil Free Days**
Please note that School Council has approved the following dates for our final two Pupil Free Days allocated by DEECD. They are **Friday, June 7th** as a Reporting and Assessment Day and **Monday, August 12th** as a Strategic Planning Day.

See you around the school,
Andrew Crossett

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**NAPLAN**
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2013 for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students will be held on Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May 2013. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal. Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report.
FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL FAMILIES TO READ

Please read the below article from the Health Department on Head lice management. If you regularly monitor your child as suggested below, tie back long hair and keep hair tidy we can hopefully manage and control headlice. Any advice or queries, please contact Julie in the Health Centre.

They're back...

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on human for 10,000 years. You may be reassured to know that they are commonly found in places other than Essex Heights PS.

Some of the reasons they have survived for as long as they have are:
- The six legs of a louse end in a claw, allowing them to grip the hair.
- They detect vibration and can hide - (conditioner will help fix this problem)
- Head lice can ‘hold’ their breath for 20 mins – looking like they are dead.
- The eggs are attached to the hair with a ‘glue’ like substance. Studies conducted on 45 different products to dissolve the ‘glue’ showed nothing would dissolve it.

The good news...

We know where they live and we know how to find them. If you follow these steps, once a week, the control of head lice in your home will be greatly improved.

**Step 1** Comb inexpensive hair conditioner on to **dry, brushed (detangled) hair**. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around;

**Step 2** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue;

**Step 3** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs;

**Step 4** If lice or eggs are found, the child should be treated;

**Step 5** If the child has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat since the eggs could be from the old infection.

If your child has head lice – tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them and **ask them to check their family for head lice**

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Coins for Kids Project

The Lions Clubs throughout Victoria are planning a state-wide project to raise money in co-operation with local schools in aid of Children’s Charities. These charities will include The Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. The project is called ‘**Coins for Kids**’. This project will be greatly increased with community support. It’s simple and it’s fun. The Junior School Council greatly support this event and will be assisting the Lions and the school on this day.

On Wednesday, 1st May, Waverley Lions members and students from Essex Heights Primary School will have a line of tape laid in the Stadium. This event will begin at 12.30. The Local community is invited to assist by donating their loose change to the line of coins.

To help your local Lion’s Club and school raise as much money as possible for the chosen charities, please consider **collecting** loose change from your pocket/purse in advance of the day to lengthen our line of coins. We can also convert a small donation ($5) into coins that would be laid on the line by the students. Students are asked to please bring the coins **on the day**.

We look forward to a great day and hope we can make an even bigger line than we made last year!

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Maria Capsalis, Renae Simpson and The Junior School Council
PARENTS & FRIENDS 'NEWS

Entertainment Books

The Entertainment™ Book is a restaurant and activity guide that provides special 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from many of the best restaurants, hotels and attractions throughout Australia. It also includes discounts on purchases at retailers such as Coles, Woolworths, Caltex, Dan Murphy and Big W. The cost of the book is $65. You only need to use a couple of vouchers and you will have recouped your investment. Then you can save lots of money for over a year as the offers are valid until June 2014. Books may be ordered now online or using the order form which will be sent home after the holidays (or see flyer below). Ask your family, friends, neighbours or work colleagues if they would like one, as the school receives $13 from each book sold. You can order online at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/187402c. Other payment options are cheque (made payable to Essex Heights Primary School), cash, Visa or Mastercard. Please include your child’s name and Class on the order form and return to school via your Class Teacher. The book will be delivered to your child’s classroom. For more information or to make special arrangements for book collection, contact Linda Cornell C/- 4S or 5L, phone 9807 2493 or email ehpssfa@gmail.com.

Purchase your new 2013 | 2014 Entertainment™ Book...

Choose what you want to do and when you want to do it with hundreds of valuable offers. Entertainment™ Books are filled with 2-for-1 offers and up to 50% off, valid now until 1st June 2014!

Purchase a Book and at the same time, you will also be helping community fund-raising!

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- Locale @ De Bortoli
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- The Merrywell Upstairs
- Botanical
- Livingroom Restaurant
- Sapore
- The Anchorage
- Paladarr
- Sarti
- and many more...

Casual Restaurant and Family Dining
- Taco Bill
- The Pancake Parlour
- Café de Cuba
- Caffe Sienna Ristorante
- Anglers Tavern
- Milano's
- Snow Pony
- Casa Lounge
- La Camera Southbank
- Trenta Cucina
- The Blackburn Hotel
- Wagamama
- Aussie Steak & Burger
- Manningham Hotel
- and many more...

Informal Dining and Takeaway
- Domino's
- Trampoline
- Spudbar
- Wendys
- Baskin Robbins
- Mad Mex
- Brumby's
- Coco Green
- Pizza Capers
- Mrs Field's Cookies
- Cold Rock Ice Creamery
- Schnitz
- Red Rooster
- Stubby
- and many more...

Arts, Sports and Attractions
- Luna Park
- Melbourne Aquarium
- Village Cinemas
- Reading Cinemas
- Collingwood Children's Farm
- Puffing Billy Railway
- and many more...

Retail and Shopping
- Coles
- REVIEW
- REVIEW
- arkins
- Bgw
- Masters
- Sea World
- Mantra
- Qbe
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- and many more...

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Email: ehpssfa@gmail.com
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Order securely online at https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/187402c or complete this form and return with payment.

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Address: ____________________________ P/Code: ____________________________
Child’s Name: ____________________________ Child’s Class: ____________________________
I would like to order: ___ x Melbourne @ $65 each (GST incl.) = $____________

Total amount enclosed: = $____________

I would like to pay by: [ ] Cash  [ ] Cheque  Please make cheque payable to Essex Heights Primary School
Or please charge my: [ ] Visa  [ ] Mastercard
Credit Card Number: ____________________________ Expiry Date: __________

Cardholder’s Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Thank you for your support. Each Book contributes to new resources for our school

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SCHOOL BANKING

School banking will start again this Friday 20 April, 2013.

Last term we had great results:

- 48 new students joined the banking program
- the school received $573 in commission from the Commonwealth Bank

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.

To join your children just open an account at any Commonwealth Bank branch or over the internet if you are already a customer.

For all existing bankers please take note of this years competition, a flyer will come home shortly and is also included in your bank statement. All you have to do is 3 deposits through the school this term to go into the drawer to win a family holiday. If you have any questions contact Stefanie on sscanning10@gmail.com.
We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn Program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8th April and Sunday 9th June. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

For every $10.00 spent at Woolworths, you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. Pop them onto a Woolworths Point Sheet and, once this is completed, just bring it back to school or drop it into the Collection Box at your local Woolworths with the school name on it. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn Program and we would like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art and crafts through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program.

Lunchtime Dance

Lunchtime Dance will continue to run in Term 2 for students in Years 1-4. There will also be a new class offered to students in Years 5 & 6. Dance is a great way for children to have fun while getting fit at the same time. The cost is $30 for a 6 week program with each lesson running for 30 minutes and classes take place on a Wednesday in the hall. Classes begin Wednesday 24th April.

Children will learn warm up routines, have the opportunity to create their own movements and learn a choreographed dance. This dance will be performed at the end of the program for family and friends giving the children a sense of achievement.

A limited number of places are available and will be offered to the first students who return their payment with their booking slip. If you would like your child to participate in this activity, please obtain a registration form from the office or visit creativedanceanddrama.com and request a form via the contact page.

After School Dance

The After School Dance Program is for students in Years 1 & 2, runs for 9 weeks and costs $90 for the term. The classes take place in the gymnasium foyer on a Wednesday at 3.40pm and run for 45 minutes. The first class of the term begins Wednesday 17th April.

Children will be participate in a variety of warm up routines, create their own movements through activities and learn choreographed dances and song and dance routines to be performed at the end of the last session of term.

There are currently places available in this class. If you would like your child to participate in this class, please obtain a registration form from the office or visit creativedanceanddrama.com and request a form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama
The Box Hill High School Year 7 SEAL Application link is currently open on our website. www.boxhillhs.vic.edu.au

To commence the selection process, parents of 2013 Year 6 applicants are asked to apply now. Places in the SEAL Program are for gifted students, currently residing in Victoria, who qualify for a government funded education, regardless of the location of their residential address.

For further information about the SEAL Program and Box Hill High School, we extend an invitation to our 2013 Open Afternoon 2.30 – 4.30 pm Tuesday 23 April.
Foster Care Information Session

Can you offer a child in need a home-cooked meal, a warm bed and the security of an adult’s care? More foster carers are desperately needed to help fill the gaps for emergency, respite and long term care situations within our local community. Learn more about how you can make a difference by attending Anglicare Victoria’s next information session on Tuesday 23 April, 7.30pm, Mt Waverley Youth Centre, 45 Miller Cres, Mt Waverley. Carers come from all walks of life and are supported by a caseworker 24 hours a day. Foster carers are able to nominate the ages and genders of children they can care for. For bookings and enquiries call 1300 889 335 or email fostercare.eastern@anglicarevic.org.au.

Millennium Optical
Bulk Billed Eye Testing
PH 9803 3995
59 Blackburn Rd, Mount Waverley
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When was your child’s last eye Exam?