PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

***Electronic ‘Contact’***
A reminder that this is the final ‘hard copy ‘Contact‘ to be published for now. As of next week, it is only available online and you can register for a reminder email to be sent when it is uploaded each week. This can be set up through the school website:

http://www.essexheightspsvic.edu.au/

Year 6 Student Leadership Positions
Last Monday’s Assembly was very special for our Yr 6 Student Leadership group who were formally presented with their badges of office. It was a pleasure to welcome MLA Michael Gidley, Member for Waverley, to Essex Heights again. Michael, also as an elected community leader, was able to share the excitement of the children and was an appropriate special guest to make the presentations. I congratulate all the children and look forward to their contributions to our school throughout the year.

Our School Captains for 2013

### CALENDAR DATES

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1 March</td>
<td>Schools Clean Up Day</td>
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<td>4–22 March</td>
<td>AFL Quiz – AFL Pre-season (practice questions)</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>World Literacy Day (World Education Games)</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Discussions</td>
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<td>6 March</td>
<td>World Maths Day (World Education Games)</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
<td>World Science Day (World Education Games)</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
<td>Pink Stumps Day – Yr 6 v. Teachers 1.45 p.m. start</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
<td>Welcome Event</td>
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<td>12–15 March</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp – Forest Lodge Farm</td>
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<td>15 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Concert &amp; Picnic – 11.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>End Term 1, 2013 – 2.30 p.m. finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>First day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6–8 May</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp – Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
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**Term 2**

- 15th April: First day Term 1
- 6th – 8th May: Year 5 Camp – Sovereign Hill Camp
Michael took the opportunity after Assembly to join James Fitzpatrick (School Council President) and myself to have a look around Essex Heights, visit our new learning spaces and hear about the completion of the Building Futures program. I would like to thank Michael for his time and interest in our school and look forward to having him visit again in the near future.

Our 2013 Student Leadership Group

PFA AGM and Membership
One of the key organisations at Essex Heights PS is the Parents & Friends Association, the PFA. They do a fantastic job in building community through special events, providing wonderful activities and services for the children and in fundraising for much needed equipment and resources. I draw your attention to their AGM coming up on Thursday March 7th at 7:30pm. At this meeting you can hear about the work of the PFA and find out how you may be able to assist their efforts in 2013. Please consider carefully if you are able to support the work of the PFA this year.

Parent/Teacher Discussions
Online bookings are now open for these Parent/Teacher Discussions which have been scheduled for Monday March 4th and Tuesday March 5th. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet their child’s class teacher to discuss matters of mutual interest, to ensure that the year is a most successful experience for all involved. Please contact the Office if you need assistance to book a timeslot.

Please also remember to return the Student Questionnaire that was circulated last week as this also provides useful information to class teachers as the year gets underway.

Essex Heights Musical CD
We are in the early stages of planning the production and sale of an “Essex Heights Musical CD”. This has been done in the past at Essex Heights and Lisa Carne (Music Teacher), Alyssa Kennedy (Instrumental Co-ordinator) and the instrumental teachers are keen to again showcase the outstanding talents of our students. With such a high quality Music program we will have no difficulty finding performers and hope that all students will be featured in some way. At this stage we are aiming for a Term 3 launch with any funds raised from the sales committed back into The Arts program.

Somers Camp
Today we welcome back Margaret Fitzpatrick and 14 Year 5 & 6 students who have spent the last 10 days at the Department’s seaside camp at Somers. By all accounts they had a fantastic time and have come back with a number of new friends and many stories to tell.

***Important School Notices***
Please remember to return the ‘group permission notice’ that covers a number of items requiring annual parent consent. Please ensure this comes back to school with one notice signed for each child.

Surplus Tables and Chairs
We have a number of surplus classroom tables and plastic student chairs in storage. They were replaced by new classroom furniture last year and will shortly be disposed of. If you can find a use for this furniture, please contact the Office to make arrangements for collection.

See you around the school,
Andrew Crossett, Principal
PARENTS & FRIENDS 'NEWS'

On Thursday 7th March at 7:30 pm in the staffroom we will be holding our AGM where the next office bearers are elected. Positions are available, and it is a great way to meet parents and get involved. The PFA run various events which are listed on the welcome letter, which you will receive shortly. Last year some of the funds we had raised went to a playground, digital piano, music uniforms and more. Membership is only $2 per year and meetings are held twice per term and are a great way to get involved and see the benefit your child receives at school from our fundraisers. Hope to see you there.

The Welcome event will be held on March 15th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm outside the Library (if weather permits). There will be a sausage sizzle ($2.00), drinks ($1.00) and entertainment. Bring your picnic rugs and nibblies and come along and enjoy a night of fun.

Look out for Hot cross bun and Easter raffle forms to come home soon too.

Thank you and enjoy your weekend

Betty Ciorciari

BASC

The April Vacation Care is out now. If you require this program please enrol promptly.

If families have not received their Childcare Rebate can you please contact me so we can try to rectify the problem. If you have not received your account via email can you please e-mail me at davis.paul.d@edumail.vic.gov.au

Well done to Zoe, Rebecca, Camilla and Vinuthi for helping with the preps.

Also congratulations to the Active Aftercare Leaders. Sean, David, Rex, Declan, Aaron, Tristian and Jordan. You are doing a great job.

Thank you
Paul Davis, Co-Ordinator

CANTEEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>1st March</th>
<th>10.00 a.m.</th>
<th>Jenny May, Gina Chen, Margaret Rendell</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>4th March</td>
<td>10.45 a.m.</td>
<td>Jenny Spowart, Amanda Kelsall</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Grace Son, Georgina Kelly, Erika Tale</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Jenny Quinn, Amarjit Nagra, Robyn Perkin, Helen Giakoumatos</td>
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PRINTED LUNCH BAGS
50 bags = $3.00
10 bags = $0.60

Please contact Maggie on 9807 1815 if you have any queries or are unable to attend

Pink Stumps Day at Essex Heights Primary School
7th March, 2013
Game starts at 1.45 p.m.

FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

If you have received a Medical/Asthma/Allergy form for your child to be updated could you please complete and return to the Health Centre as soon as possible.

This will ensure we have up to date records and therefore assist in managing your child appropriately while at school. If you have not received one or wish to discuss any medical management issues of your child at school, please ring Julie on 9807 4944 between 11am-3pm.

World Education Games
“The World Education Games is an annual global online challenge to get all students (4-18 years of age) excited about learning, and to give the top students in all schools an opportunity to see how they measure up against the best in the world. Last year, over 5 million students were a part of what is now the world’s largest online education event.”

Split over three days and focussing on literacy, mathematics and science, the World Education Games is an exciting and engaging way to promote learning and education across the world.

Students use their Mathletics username and password to access this online challenge. Students can access activities now in preparation for the World Education Games March 5th to 7th.

Please note: due to world time differences, the 3 day event starts in Melbourne 9pm March 4th.

http://www.worldeducationgames.com/WEG2013/About

Science Rocks!
Science and The Environment Dates 2013

3rd March Clean Up Australia Day
23rd March Earth Hour 8.30pm
3rd –9th March Seaweek, with the theme being ‘Sustainable Seas’. Marine Education Society of Australasia’s (MESA) major annual education campaign to increase understanding and appreciation of the ocean and its living organisms.
10th -16th March National Groundwater Awareness Week. Groundwater is essential to the health and well-being of humanity and the environment.
21st March World Forestry Day is an international event celebrated on every year
22nd March World Water Day
23rd March World Meterorological Day is Theme is Weather, climate and the air we breathe.
22nd April International Mother Earth Day is an acknowledgement that the Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance.
17th June World Day to Combat Desertification This year’s theme of the WDCD is Drought and Water Scarcity.
5th June World Environment Day
8th June World Oceans Day.
26th July Schools Tree Day
28th July National Tree Day
10th -18th August National Science Week. The theme for schools is A Century of Australian Science
19th -26th August Keep Australia Beautiful - reduce litter and promote sustainable communities
September National Biodiversity Month ‘Diversity - the variety of living things’
8th September Sustainable House Day
16th September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21st September World Parks Day is an opportunity to celebrate our parks and green spaces
4th October World Animal Day as it is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.
7th October World Habitat Day
20th October National Water Awareness Week.
21st November World Fisheries Day - focus on changing the way the world manages global fisheries to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy oceans ecosystems
11th December International Mountain Day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life

Jenny Austin and Jessica Chan, Science Co-Ordinators
**Science Talent Search**
The Science Talent Search is an annual, science based competition open to all primary and secondary students (Prep to Year 12) in Victoria, Australia.

The theme for 2013 is *A Century of Australian Science*. It is an exciting and extremely rewarding competition to enter. It is also FUN!

The students may enter in any one of the following categories:
- Experimental Research
- Creative Writing
- Working Models
- Inventions
- Games
- Computer Programs
- Posters – Scientific Wallcharts
- Science Photography
- Video Productions

**Cost is $8.00 per individual entry and $15.00 for group (2 people) entry.**
Primary students compete in either Lower Primary (Prep. to Year 3) or Primary (Years 4 to 6)
It is important section guidelines are closely followed.

**Important Dates STS 2013**
4<sup>th</sup> March  Online entry registration opens
31<sup>st</sup> May   Entry registration closes
25<sup>th</sup> & 26 July  Research and Creative writing entries
10<sup>th</sup> August  Public Judging Day for Models, Inventions, Computers, Games, Photography, Posters, Video, and Class Project
6<sup>th</sup> November  Exhibition and Presentation Day

For more information please see Jenny Austin 4AW (V6) or Felicity O’Flynn Prep O (E6)

Jenny Austin and Felicity O’Flynn
Science Talent Search Co-ordinators

**Maths Talent Quest**
The Maths Talent Quest is an annual, science based competition open to all primary and secondary students (Prep to Year 12) in Victoria, Australia.

"The MTQ aims to promote interest in mathematics and foster positive attitudes amongst students, teachers and parents. The focus is on the process of mathematical investigations. Looking at real life situations and finding that mathematics is everywhere, captures the imagination of both teachers and students alike. The Maths Talent Quest allows students to investigate mathematics on an individual/group/class basis with the chance to have fun, see mathematics in real life situations and receive some recognition in the process."

**Key Dates 2013**
15<sup>th</sup> April  Registration opens
17<sup>th</sup> July  Registration closes
14<sup>th</sup> August  Delivery of entries Latrobe
15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August  Judging (Students do not attend)
21<sup>st</sup> August (a.m.)  Display of entries (Students may attend)
21<sup>st</sup> August (p.m.)  Entry Pick Up & 22<sup>nd</sup> August  (2pm deadline)
24<sup>th</sup> October  Award Ceremony

**Cost is $20 per entry.**


Jenny Austin and Maria Capsalis
Maths Talent Quest Co-ordinators
**AFL Quiz**
This competition is open to Years 3 – 6 and is conducted at school. It is a numeracy and literacy quiz based on the AFL. It also develops teamwork and IT skills. It consists of a pre-season quiz followed by three competitive rounds, concluding with an exclusive final series.

Teams of THREE students have one hour to answer 10 questions and be in the running to win exciting prizes, including tickets to attend an AFL match. This is a free quiz.

**Key Dates 2013**

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<td>AFL Pre-Season (practice questions)</td>
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<td><strong>AFL Quiz Qualifying</strong></td>
<td>May 20th – 24th</td>
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<td>20th – 24th May</td>
<td>Round 1:</td>
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<td>27th – 31st May</td>
<td>Round 2:</td>
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<td>3rd – 7th June</td>
<td>Round 3:</td>
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<td>29th July – 2nd August</td>
<td>AFL Quiz Finals</td>
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Jenny Austin
AFL Quiz Co-ordinator

**SCHOOLBANKING NEWS**
School banking has been off to a great start with lots of students banking, keep up the good work.

For children that are interested I still have quite a number of **USB sticks** that can be ordered as rewards. These were left over from last year and are not on the reward list for this year. USB sticks are all 1 GB also some might be labelled 2GB but the label is not correct.

Parents, if you could tell your kids that these rewards are still available until they are run out that would be fantastic.

**Christian Religious Education [C.R.E.]**
C.R.E. is available to all students at E.H.P.S. Parents who are interested in becoming C.R.E. teachers are needed. Training is provided and a Working with Children Check Card is necessary. These positions are Voluntary.
If you would like more information, please ask at the School's Office.
When was your child’s last eye exam?

Millennium Optical
Bulk Billed Eye Testing
PH 9803 3995
59 Blackburn Rd, Mount Waverley
Mon – Fri 10 am -5pm
Sat 12pm-4pm