PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Clean Up Australia Day at Essex Heights
Last Friday we enthusiastically joined in the local ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ by cleaning our own school grounds and the neighbouring Council Oval. Every class participated and we were very pleased with how little rubbish we were able to collect. This proves that we are doing a great job each day in keeping our school clean and tidy.

In conjunction with this event, many children also entered a colouring and poster competition and all the entries are on display in the Hall. At Monday’s Assembly we announced the winners as:

Prep – Kayla S. - Prep O
Yr 1/2 – Neve A. - 2W
Yr 3/4 – Lynn N. – 3F
Yr 5/6 – Eleanor C. - 6M

We also had an overall winner and congratulations go to Georgette I. of 3S who receives a Worm Farm and 1000 live worms courtesy of the Monash City Council. Amanda Wilson from the Council is seen here delivering the Worm Farm which is now at home with Georgette and her family.

Our thanks to the Council for their support of Essex Heights Clean Up Day.

Thanks to all the children and teachers for supporting this worthwhile environmental initiative. Particular thanks to Yr 4 teacher, Marita Steward, and the Environmental Captains for their role in organising the day.

CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th – 22nd March</td>
<td>AFL Quiz – AFL Pre-season (practice questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>PFA – AGM – 7.30 p.m. staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th – 15th March</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp – Forest Lodge Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>Last day for Hot Cross Bun Orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>P.F.A. Welcome Picnic - 5.30 – 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th &amp; 19th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st March</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Concert &amp; Picnic – 11.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th March</td>
<td>End Term 1, 2013 – 2.30 p.m. finish</td>
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Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th April</td>
<td>First day Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th – 8th May</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp – Sovereign Hill Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>School Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th May</td>
<td>Meet the Orchestra Excursion– Year 4 &amp; Chamber Strings</td>
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Contact
PFA Welcome Picnic

A reminder to families about the PFA Welcome Picnic that will take place on Friday, March 15th from 5:30-7:30pm. The PFA would love to see as many families as possible join in for a pleasant evening in the school courtyard, especially new families to the school. There will be live music provided by a band comprising some past Essex Heights students as well as a sausage sizzle for those who would like the night off from cooking.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Instrumental Music Provision

Our Instrumental Music provision is highly valued within our school community and is very much part of the culture of our school. It is a program that is widely acknowledged to be exceptional at the primary level.

This week, invoices will be sent out to all families involved with this service. This is a little later than normal as we have had some changes to make around timetabling this year. In order that we can continue to provide this program at minimal cost it is crucial that these accounts are paid in advance.

Currently our Instrumental Music program is supported by the following personnel:

- Alyssa Kennedy (Co-ord) - Violin, Viola, Cello & Double Bass
- Chris Dunn - Clarinet & Saxophone
- Ken McDonald - Trumpet, Trombone, Concert Band, Junior & Beginner Bands
- Sarah Green - Flute
- Peter King - Guitar
- Troy Grech - Drum Kit, Snare Drum
- Maurice Duband - Piano
- Kaz Sieger - Piano & Keyboard

Yr 6 Camp – Forest Lodge

Our Yr 6 children and teachers will venture off on Tuesday morning to Forest Lodge camp, out of Yarram in South Gippsland. It is a four day outdoor adventure style camp that offers a range of experiences and activities for the children to enjoy. These types of camps are wonderful as they offer opportunities that are not possible in a normal school setting, as well as building the children’s independence and social skills.

I am travelling down to the camp on Tuesday afternoon to stay overnight and for Wednesday's activities so will include some stories in next week's Contact.

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 tonight (March 7th) at 7:30 pm in the staffroom. 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.
Importance of Reading to Children

I read with interest in the Sunday Age an article by John Elder. I have included it here as I believe it makes some very pertinent points about the importance of reading to children that would be endorsed by all teachers.

MELBOURNE researchers have proven what parents have intuitively known all along – the more often you read to your children from an early age, the greater the positive effect on their reading and thinking skills.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research has not only proven a causal effect between the frequency of reading to a child and his or her development, but have also for the first time measured the benefits.

Children four to five years old who are read to three to five times a week have the same reading ability as children six months older (who are read to only twice or less a week).

Reading to children six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to.

It was also found that reading to small children has a positive effect on the development of numeracy skills.

"It does appear to be the case that children who are read to more often keep doing better as they age than other children," said Professor Guyonne Kalb, director of the institute’s Labour Economics and Social Policy Program, and co-author of the study.

The research – which was funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – found the positive outcomes occurred in children regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. That is, children with poor backgrounds or parents of limited education or ability have the same benefit of being read to frequently.

"We wanted to try and determine whether reading itself is leading to better outcomes, or do parents who read to their children have other things going on," Professor Kalb said.

"We worked with children representing a whole range of families, from all different backgrounds and economic circumstances. We found it doesn’t matter if a child is from a poor or rich family, or if the parents are highly educated or not, doing this basic thing of reading to them leads to better developmental outcomes.”

The longitudinal study followed the reading skills of more than 4000 children, aged four to five years in 2004, through to age 10 to 11.

Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the research was "an exciting step forward’’ in understanding the importance of reading to young children.

"These findings send a clear message to parents, grandparents, teachers and carers that the benefits of reading go way beyond a shared bonding experience.”

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See you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal
**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
On the 18th and 19th March, photographers will be at the school to take the students’ photographs. These are of excellent quality and are a great memento of your children’s time at Primary School. The students will be bringing home the Photo envelopes very soon and these are to be returned to school by the day of the photos. The schedule for the timetable for the photos will be available soon.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS ‘NEWS’**
Hot cross bun forms were sent home last week. If you are interested in purchasing some, please complete the form and return to classroom with your money by 15th March. Hot cross buns will be distributed on the 25th March. If anyone is available to help with distributing the hot cross buns, please see Morweena Griffiths or send an email to PFA ehpspa@gmail.com.

Easter raffle tickets have also been sent home. If purchasing, ticket butts need to be returned with money no later than 20th March. The raffle will be drawn in assembly on Monday 25th March. Remember that all proceeds will be benefiting our children.

This Thursday is the AGM for the PFA, please come along and get involved as much or as little as you like. The roles of Secretary and Treasurer will be explained and you will be able to find out about the membership, and events coming up around the school, and how the PFA works.

On Friday 15th March we will be holding a **Welcome Event**. There will be a sausage sizzle ($2) drinks ($1) and icypoles for all the children. This year we are very excited to be entertained by former Essex Heights students in their band called **CRINQL CUT**. Hopefully if weather permits we will be outside the library in the courtyard. So come along and enjoy a night of entertainment and fun.

Enjoy your weekend
Betty Ciociai

**FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE**
Please be aware that there was a case of Chicken pox in the lower grades.

Also, if your child forgets to bring their hat, for hygiene reasons they will no longer be able borrow one from the Health Centre. They will need to play in shaded areas until they come to school with a suitable hat, preferably a school hat.

**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

Thank you
Paul Davis, Co-Ordinator
Science Rocks!

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 Wall charts
- 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**
- **Monday 4 March** Online entry registration opens
- **Friday 31 May** Entry registration closes
- **Thursday 25 July & Friday 26 July** Research and Creative writing entries are due
- **Saturday 10 August** Public Judging Day for Models, Inventions, Computers, Games, Photography, Posters, Video, and Class Project
- **Wednesday 6 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, mathematics 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**
- **Monday 15th April** Registration opens
- **Wednesday 17th July** Registration closes
- **Wednesday 14th August** Delivery of entries Latrobe
- **Thursday 15th August** –
  - **Tuesday 20th August** Judging (Students do not attend)
  - **Wednesday 21st August (Morning)** Display of entries (Students may attend)
  - **Wednesday 21st August (Afternoon)** Entry Pick Up & **Thursday 22nd August** (2pm deadline)
- **Thursday 24th October** Award Ceremony

**Cost is $20 per entry.**
For more information please see Jenny Austin 4AW (V6) or Maria Capsalis in 4CW (V7) or Mathematical Association of Victoria (MAV) website [http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/activities/student-activities/maths-talent-quest.html](http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/activities/student-activities/maths-talent-quest.html)

Jenny Austin and Maria Capsalis
Maths Talent Quest Co-ordinators
**CANTEEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Staff Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>8th March</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Jenny Quinn, Amarjit Nagra, Robyn Perkin, Helen Giakoumatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>11th March</td>
<td></td>
<td>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY. NO SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lauren Beechey, Hengchuan Cai, Renata Sedlacek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Stefanie Wendler-Canning, Caroline Thomas, Christine Interrigi</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

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**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

PRODUCTS & SERVICES ADVERTISED IN ‘CONTACT’ ARE ON A PAID BASIS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY BEING PROMOTED BY ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**When was your child’s last eye Exam?**

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**Millennium Optical**

**Bulk Billed Eye Testing**

PH 9803 3995  
59 Blackburn Rd, Mount Waverley  
Mon – Fri 10 am -5pm  
Sat 12pm-4pm

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**Choir Victoria**

**Recruiting now!**

We invite all children aged 5 years and up to audition for the Victorian Boys Choir or Victorian Girls Choir @ Tintern in Ringwood East on:  
Saturday 16th March 2013

Choir Victoria incorporated is a performing choir employing excellent professional music staff to give your child the very best musical tuition in an atmosphere of great fun and friendship.  
For an affordable musical and wonderful lifetime experience for your child, contact us to arrange a booking for your child’s audition.

Contact: Sam 0417 531 138 or Ren 0431 568 180  
Website: www.choirvictoria.org.au  
Email: admin@choirvictoria.org.au

***BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!***