PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Great First Week
Throughout this week I have had the pleasure of visiting many of your children in their classrooms and specialist programs. I could not be more pleased with the atmosphere of calm and productive endeavour evident throughout the school. The teachers’ focus has been on reintroducing our ‘Essex Heights Values’ and the ‘Expectations & Behaviours’ for each classroom. They have also been aiming to build strong relationships and establish a positive environment, and I have certainly seen that in operation.

It was also wonderful to see students who are new to Essex Heights (23 in total) being welcomed into the school and to see all children playing safely and co-operatively in the playground.

This great start certainly points to a positive and exciting year ahead for all in the Essex Heights community.

Staffing News
Last Friday I wrote to the Prep parents, particularly those in Prep P, with some news relating to Lena Papadatos. In a very exciting development, Lena and her husband John have just been offered a baby for adoption. This is unexpected, but wonderful news as they have been on a ‘waiting list’ for a number of years. I would like to congratulate Lena and John and wish them well as they begin their new family life.

The result of this news is that Lena will be taking Family Leave from Monday, February 3rd.

Lena’s classroom responsibilities in Prep P will be taken this Term by Sophie Skangos and we welcome Sophie back onto our staff. The Prep Co-ordinator role will be shared by Pam Rowler and Joan Scott.

Planning and Preparation Days for 2014
During Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, all teaching and non teaching staff were involved in planning and preparation that focussed upon the directions and focus of our Strategic Plan; our team development and goals; the development and provisions around student management and student support; models of teaching and learning and a range of other initiatives.

I thank the teaching, support staff, office staff and cleaning team for their efforts in making our start as smooth as possible. Furthermore it has been fabulous to have Paul Davis and the team at our Holiday Program providing an enjoyable experience for the many students and families who have relied on this service during the last three weeks.

CALENDAR DATES

| TERM 1 | After School Dance commences – 3.40 p.m. - Stadium (back of school) |
| 10th February | Lunchtime Dance commences – 1.40 p.m. - School Hall (front of school) |
| 12th February | After School Chess commences – rooms to be advised |
| 12th February | PFA Meeting – staffroom – 7.30 p.m. |
| 17th February | Prep 2014 Information Evening for Parents – 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. School Hall |
| 17th February | Yrs 1 & 2 Information Evening for Parents – 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. School Hall |
| 18th February | Yrs 3 & 4 Information Evening for Parents – 6.30 – 7.30 p.m. School Hall |
| 18th February | Yrs 5 & 6 Information Evening for Parents – 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. School Hall |
| 19th February | School Council Meeting – 7.30 p.m. – Staffroom |
| 27th February | Pink Stumps Day – Cricket match |
| 3rd March | Parent Teacher Discussions |
| 4th March | Parent Teacher Discussions |
| 5th March | PFA Annual General Meeting – 7.30 p.m. |
| 4th April | Last day of Term 4 – 2.30 p.m. finish |
**New Preps**

Last Friday, our 80 Prep students commenced with all that enthusiasm and energy that is so infectious in a school. Our Prep team of Pam Rowler, Natalie Zaibak, Felicity O’Flynn, Sophie Skangos and Lisa Carne, together with a number of specialist and support staff welcomed our students and parents as they began their journey at Essex Heights. It was also really pleasing to note the many new families who are joining us here at Essex for the first time; we extend a special welcome to them. Thanks to the many Essex Heights parents who have assisted in welcoming our new Prep families to this friendly community. During the coming Wednesdays our Prep staff will be conducting literacy and numeracy assessments with our students in preparation for the year ahead so the Prep children will not be attending school on that day.

This week I enjoyed a visit from each of our Prep classes as they participated in a tour of the Admin area on Tuesday. They squeezed into my Office and proceeded to touch and poke everything on my desk …… including my mascot birds, which are now quite traumatized! 😊

**Playground Mulch**

We took delivery of 10m of playground mulch on Tuesday afternoon and I was very appreciative of the five parents who spent some time with me in the afternoon, spreading it under our Stadium Playground. Thanks to Ferdinand La’Forgue, Andy Bamford, Caroline Thomas, Betty Ciorciari and Robyn Perkin …… much appreciated!

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**Educational Contributions 2014**

You will have received a letter this week in relation to this important area. Your support is crucial if we are to continue to provide the high calibre programs and opportunities for our students in the times ahead. Please read the letter carefully and contact the Office if you have any questions.

**Student Leadership Positions**

Our Year 6 students play a pivotal role in this area and we expect to formally present badges to our School Captains, House Captains and other Leadership positions next Monday 10th February. We are pleased to have our local State Parliament Member, Michael Gidley to join us for that Assembly to make the presentations. (Please see the list of the 2014 Student Leaders later in Contact.)

Similarly we look forward to continuing the great work undertaken by our Junior School Council and will have positions announced later in the month. Our Junior School Council comprises representatives from Years 3-6.

Importantly, all students in Year 6 will be given opportunities for leadership and development. An important part of this approach is the development of public speaking skills in all students. We look forward to our students working with us to conduct Assemblies and perform other duties in the year ahead.
**Parent Information Evenings for Yr 1-6 Classes**

We have scheduled Parent Information Evenings for the following dates and times, with a separate notice coming home to families next week. Please note the following dates and times:

- **Preps**
  - Monday, February 17th – 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Yrs 1 & 2**
  - Monday, February 17th – 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Yrs 3 & 4**
  - Tuesday, February 18th – 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Yrs 5 & 6**
  - Tuesday, February 18th – 7:30pm – 8:30pm

**Parent/Teacher Discussions**

These have been scheduled for Monday March 3rd and Tuesday March 4th. 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. Again, information will be forwarded shortly.

**Updating Medical Information**

It is important for families to consider any changed medical needs of their children and ensure that we have up to date records regarding asthma, anaphylaxis, allergies or other conditions that may impact on the children at school. Please contact our First Aid Officer, Julie Zuk, via the Office to discuss these or any other related medical notifications.

**Student Illness and Accidents**

At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. **Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details.** Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. **The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not hold accident insurance for school students.**

**Is other Insurance available? Yes.**

There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found Online or through your Insurance Broker.

**Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property**

On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) **does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools** and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

**Electronic ‘Contact’**

As was the case last year, we will shortly return to **Contact** being available in electronic form only. Consequently, we will provide families with a printed **Contact** for two weeks and then it will be available online only. You can register for a weekly email reminder through the school website:


Looking forward to seeing you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal
# STUDENT LEADERSHIP ROLES FOR 2014

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<td>Rian M.</td>
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## INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM 2014

### Instrumental Lessons

**Start next week (10th February*)**

- Make sure this year’s enrolment forms are in by Friday
- Recommended starting ages for Instruments:
  - Grade 1 – Piano, Keyboard, Drum-Kit, Violin, Viola
  - Grade 2 – Cello, Clarinet
  - Grade 3 – Flute, Guitar, Ukulele, Recorder, Trumpet
  - Grade 4 – Saxophone, Trombone and Double Bass
  - Grade 5/6 – Any Instrument
  - Preps – may start Grade 1 instruments from Term 3 onwards

### Ensemble Groups

**Start the following week (17th February*)**

- Guitar Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble
- Concert Band
- String Ensembles

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If you learn outside school, come and join our ensembles. Check out the Essex Ensembles Handbook.
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as: uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

The EMA is paid in two instalments –

Instalment 1 = Paid from March  –  Prep $140.00 & Years 1 – 6 $105.00
Instalment 2 = Paid from August - Prep $60.00 & Years 1 = 6 $45.00.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date:
Application forms can be obtained from the school office and need to be lodged by 28 February 2014.
A valid Concession Card will need to be presented and photocopied at the time of lodgement.

Welcome back hope you all enjoyed your break, and the first week of school.

Wednesday 12th February is our first PFA meeting at 7:30 in the staffroom, everyone is welcome. Come and see what the PFA is about, meet new parents, and share any new ideas you have to help raise funds for our school.

The annual general meeting is open to everyone and will be held on the 5th March at 7:30pm in the staff room. If you are interested in becoming involved and maybe even interested in joining the Committee or would just like to know a little more information about the PFA, please contact me via my email on bettyciorciari@y7mail.com. Looking forward to an exciting new year.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a second hand uniform stall coming soon. Date to be confirmed.

Thank you & enjoy your weekend
Betty

BASC
Can you please ensure that you have provided the program with your Customer Reference Number (CRN) and your children's CRN. Without these numbers you will not receive CCB / CCR.

Can you please send your children with hats and sunscreen if they are attending aftercare. We will not take children outside to play unless they have sun protection.

Thank you
Paul Davis, Co-Ordinator

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SCHOOL BANKING
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Welcome and welcome back to all future and current bankers. We enjoyed banking with the children last year and also achieved a fantastic result for the school. Our school received $2,111.30 in commission from the bank last year. This money becomes part of the PFA fund raising funds and benefits the children in lots of ways in their school life.

Banking will start on Friday, 7th February.

For all new students or anyone who would like to join the program here is how it works:
1. Get youth saver account from the Commonwealth Bank. You can open an account directly at any Commonwealth Bank by taking your child's birth certificate and your driver’s licence to the bank or online if you are already a costumer yourself.
2. Once you have an account number your child can now make deposits through the school by bringing the filled in deposit slip in the yellow pouch to school each Friday. Please make sure you include the exact money. If you have an account number but no deposit book or pouch please see me or send me a note on Friday and I will arrange one for you.
3. Your child earns a silver coin for every deposit made. When your child has earned 10 silver tokens we will swap the 10 tokens for 1 gold token which your child can keep. They also qualify for a little gift from the bank for every 10 deposits they make. The gifts for this year are on a reward card. Your child picks a gift, fills out that part of the reward card and sends it back to us.
4. The school receives a commission of 5% of all deposits made through the school and $5 for every new banker.

We hope the gifts encourage your children to become weekly bankers and get into the habit of saving regularly. Also, please remember the bank only gives your child the bonus interest rate if they bank at least once a month.

If you have questions or would like to help with banking please call or email Stef on 98087694, sscanning10@gmail.com
The School banking team.
Welcome back for 2014. We are looking forward to a great year in Canteen which begins on Monday 10th February.

Request for Volunteer Forms have been sent home. If you are available, please fill them in and return asap so that we can get Canteen started for the year. Rosters will be made for the year so that you have ample notice of your duty days.

Menus have been sent home too. Suggest you keep them in a prominent place for easy reference. Also available on the EHPS website.

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**Fabulous Musical Theatre Opportunity**

Would your child be interested in being involved in the production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat? You need to be 9 years of age or older.

Rehearsals will take place Sundays (beginning Feb 16th) from 1pm – 6pm in Dandenong. The performances will be held at the end of June. If your child is interested in being involved, please see Miss Dolence in the Music Room for more information.

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**After School Dance**

*After School Dance* classes will be offered on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** for students in Prep to Year 4 in 2014. Classes will take place in the **Stadium**. Prep/Year 1 will be on Mondays and Year 2-4 will be on Wednesdays.

Classes will begin at **3.40pm** and finishes at **4.25pm**. The Term 1, 2014 Dance program commences the week of **Monday 10th February** and concludes the week of **Monday 17th March**.

- Prep/1: $50  (No class on Monday 10th March)
- Year 2-4: $60

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

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**Lunchtime Dance**

Lunchtime Dance will continue to run in 2014 for students in Years 1-4. The cost is $35 for the 6 week program with each lesson running for 30 minutes.

The classes take place at lunchtime on Wednesdays in the hall and begin **Wednesday 12th February** and conclude **Wednesday 19th March**.

The dance routine will be performed at the end of the program for family and friends giving the children a sense of achievement.

There are currently places available in these classes. If you would like your child to participate please obtain a registration form from the school office or visit [creativdanceanddrama.com](http://creativdanceanddrama.com) and request your desired form via the contact page.

Georgia Lombard
Creative Dance and Drama
Pink Stumps Day is a nationwide initiative of Cricket Australia and the McGrath Foundation.

On Thursday 27th February we will be having a 'Teachers versus Year 6 Students’ cricket match which the WHOLE school is invited to watch.

We're asking that on the day, all students and staff wear lots or a little PINK and make a gold coin donation to the cause.

Every dollar makes a difference and your donation will help the McGrath Foundation to place McGrath Care Nurses in communities right across Australia, as well as to increase awareness in young Australian women.

100% of all donations will be donated to the McGrath Foundation.

**DETAILS FOR MATCH:**

**THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**

**11:30 AM**

**COUNCIL OVAL**
### February 2014

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Discipline vs. Punishment

What is discipline? Why aren’t punishments worth? Do you wonder how to get your kids to behave? Or are they just driving you nuts?

Come share your ideas, skills, solutions and ideas of this workshop

Who: Dads, mums & carers of children under 3 years
When: Wednesday 15th March
10.00am – 1.45pm
Where: Anglicare Geraldton House
32-42 Macleod Road, Geraldton
Cost: Free (bookings essential)
Contact: Helena at Parentzone on 9755 4134 or 0488 901 204

Rules & Consequences

What are ‘positive’ rules? How do you make them work? Using rules and consequences, together. Instead of punishment. Come share your ideas, skills, solutions and ideas of this workshop.

Who: Dads, mums & carers of children under 3 years
When: Wednesday 15th March
10.00am – 1.45pm
Where: Macleod House
32-42 Macleod Road, Geraldton
Cost: Free (bookings essential)
Contact: Helena at Parentzone on 9755 4134 or 0488 901 204

Behaviour

Why do kids behave the way they do? What’s relationships and how do we deal with it? Come share your ideas, skills, solutions and ideas of this workshop.

Who: Dads, mums & carers of children under 3 years
When: Wednesday 15th March
10.00am – 1.45pm
Where: Discrete Neighborhood House
32-42 Macleod Road, Geraldton
Cost: Free (bookings essential)
Contact: Helena at Parentzone on 9755 4134 or 0488 901 204

Resilience

Is resilience? Where does it come from? Do you want your kids to be happy and healthy?

Come share your ideas, skills, solutions and ideas of the workshop.

Who: Dads, mums & carers of children under 3 years
When: Monday 26th March
10.00am – 3.00pm
Where: Discrete Neighborhood House
32-42 Macleod Road, Geraldton
Cost: Free (bookings essential)
Contact: Helena at Parentzone on 9755 4134 or 0488 901 204

Dealing With Feelings

Are you wondering how to help kids deal with feelings? How to handle their anger and pain?

Come share your ideas, skills, solutions and ideas of this workshop.

Who: Dads, mums & carers of children under 3 years
When: Tuesday 27th March
10.00am – 1.45pm
Where: Discrete Neighborhood House
32-42 Macleod Road, Geraldton
Cost: Free (bookings essential)
Contact: Helena at Parentzone on 9755 4134 or 0488 901 204
Free Tennis Open Day

Sunday 9th February
11.00am to 2.00pm

• Free Intro Tennis Lessons
• Jumping Castle
• Free court usage
• Sausage Sizzle
• Adults & Kids welcome
• Demo racquets & Ball machine
• Club Membership Specials
• If you can not make it on the day contact us to try tennis

Come & play tennis at one of Melbourne's premier tennis clubs.

Contact: info@vidatennis.com.au
0401 052 636

Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club
260 High St Road Mt Waverley
New Menu Planning Service
Secretly helping you to be a Domestic Goddess

Is your dream to:

- Be a working mum and a domestic goddess - a hero to your family
- Have a more organised life
- Be praised by your family for your delicious meals
- Save time and money
- Get the kids to all their after-school interests and still eat well
- Reduce the number of take away meals your family eats each month

We can help you achieve all that and more!

We have prepared balanced, healthy, weekly menus for your family. We also recommend online food shopping to save time and energy.

All menus come with an organisational plan, a shopping list, a complete list of recipes, and tips to help keep your food fresh all week long.

With our help you can be the domestic goddess you’ve always dreamed of being!

To learn more, go to our website…….

www.myrestedlegs.com

………join NOW to receive 4 weeks of menus

for just $10/month.
JOIN THE BLUES IN 2014
WAVERLEY BLUES FOOTBALL CLUB
ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN

Register online now at
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/waverleyblues

For more information about the Blues visit our website
http://www.waverleyblues.com.au

REGISTRATION NIGHT
Wednesday 5th February: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Mt Waverley Reserve, Fleet St, Mt Waverley 61F12

Under 9's - 17's Boys (Girls up to U14's)
New Players Most Welcome
Enquiries - Jenny 0409 213 044 or Cathy 0419 365 060
Family Discounts Apply

Reg No. AC03788E ABN 26 745 702 545
Affiliated Member- Eastern Football League

Mt Waverley Reserve, Charles Street, Mt Waverley
P.O.Box 2113, Mt.Waverley 3149 Tel: 9807 0160
MENTAL ARITHMETIC WITH ABACUS Program

An amazing program is now available to interested parents with children from Prep to Year 6 where students can learn mental and manual arithmetic with abacus. This is a “Whole Brain Development” program with a proven concept that can improve arithmetic skills and also enhances the mental abilities like concentration, observation, visualization, imagination and memory.

Tuition Fees: $18.50 per session (1 hr 15 min per session) Abacus set plus 1 exercise books: $26

Venues:
Glen Waverley
Chadstone

Time: After School Hours

Please contact Choon Lim at GCM Abacus Method:
Mobile: 0431 616 364 After hours: 03-97580731
Email: choonbaelim@yahoo.com

KIDS ATHLETICS

Cr 3-6 skills training & fitness
Cr P-2 enhance run, jump, throw skills
Preschoolers game based fundamental skills

ENROL NOW

Term 1

Tuesday
Warner Reserve, Ashburton

Thursday
Dorothy Laver Reserve East, Glen Iris

Friday
Wesley College, Glen Waverley

Saturday
Solway Primary School, Ashburton

www.runready.com.au

What is my purpose?
Can I really be happy?

Got questions? Like to explore?

Student Alpha training - this Sunday at the school!
An 8 week course designed by an internationally acclaimed group called Alpha that has helped thousands of people around the world over the past 20 years explore the meaning of life and discover answers to their questions.

- Starts this Sunday the 9th of February 10 AM - 12PM.
- Essex Heights Primary hall.
- Morning tea, ews & espresso coffee [no cost but gold coin donation appreciated].
- Child minding facilities & activities will be provided. Contact me or hop in the link below - or I am ears up!

Mark Young
Burwood Mt Waverley Church of Christ
Ph 0401 040 814
mark@skilbuildersplus.com

www.alpha.org.au/page/guests/what.alpha

Eastern Lions Soccer Club

Small Sided Outdoor Soccer
Fun warm-up games, skills, small sided matches, experienced & energetic coaches,
Eastern Lions Club playing, bag provided
Girls & Boys 4-7 years of age.
Term 1 - 2014

“SUNDAY” morning Program
9 weeks, starting 9th Feb until 6th April 2014
10:00 am - 11:15 am Eastern Lions Home Ground
Gardens Creek Reserve, Sixth Ave, Burwood, Vic 3125.
Register online at http://www.easternlions.com.au
for $125.00 - pay prior to Friday 7th Feb;
NEW PLAYERS come and TRY & SEE for a couple of weeks before committing.

Contact Jo Ann 0402 227 969 or Kerr Willcock (President) 0411 036 568 with queries.
PILATES

FEB. OFFER: TRY YOUR 1ST CLASS FOR $6!

Pilates is popular with all ages and abilities and can help with general fitness, a stronger, toned, more flexible body, improved posture, injury prevention, increased energy and enhanced wellbeing!

Shape up for Summer & find out what Pilates can do for you at our friendly classes!

**Mon. 9.30am, Weds. 6pm,**  
**Thurs. 9.30am and Sat. 9.15am**  
The Uniting Church Hall, 482 High Street Rd,  
Mount Waverley. Mel: 61 G12

Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm

Parkhill Primary School Hall, Parkhill Drive, Ashwood.  
Mel: 60 K9

Cost: $12.00 per class for block bookings or $16.00 casual rate.  
Please contact Karen to reserve your place:  
email: karensramsey@hotmail.com Tel: 9807 0429  
www.karens pilates.com