PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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.

School Council Election - 2014

A reminder that the nomination period, as outlined in the parent bulletin circulated earlier this week, closes on Monday February 17th at 4:00pm. Self Nomination forms are available from the Office, or on the Essex Heights PS website under the Notices tab. The completed forms will need to be returned to the Office.
‘Selamat Siang’ – (or ‘Good Afternoon’ in Indonesian)
The children have been really enjoying their first few lessons of our new Languages-Indonesian Program with ‘Bu Douros’. These classes take place in the Stadium and if you get a chance to call in after school it is well worth a look to see how it has been transformed into an Indonesian Classroom. Please also see some ‘Indonesian News’ included in this Contact, and we have added a flyer with some basic phrases onto the ‘Notices’ section of the website for parents who may be interested to join the children in learning some Indonesian language.

Car Parking & Safety
I would like to seek parental assistance with some traffic safety concerns that have come to my attention. Of course, our main focus is the children’s safety and these matters are raised to ensure we are doing our best to provide a safe and secure environment for the children as they travel to and from school.

- The car park at the front of the school is for Staff and allocated Permit Holders only. It is not a ‘Drop Off Zone’ for children and it is not safe to use it as such.
- Equally, this Staff Car Park is not a pedestrian access and it is not safe for children to enter and leave school via those gates. As cars enter and leave that area regularly, we ask that no children enter school via that route. The only entrance to school, from Essex Rd, is through the front gate.
- The ‘2 Minute Drop Off Zone’ at the front of the school is not a Car Park and parents are not able to leave their car there and walk away. I have asked the Council By-Laws Officers to patrol this area more frequently and parents not complying risk a fine.
- As there is a solid white line in front of the school, it is not legal for parents to conduct a ‘U-Turn’ across this line. I ask parents to continue travelling in the same direction and go around the block. Again, the Council By-Laws Officers will patrol this area.
- Please ensure that all children cross Essex Rd at the supervised crossing in the front of the school. I have noticed some parents encouraging their children to cross at other places and this is a very dangerous practice when Essex Rd is busy at 9am and 3:30pm.

I invite all parents to support us in these requests in order to ensure the safety of all the children.

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.

Parent Information Evenings for Yr 1-6 Classes
We have scheduled Parent Information Evenings for the following dates and times, with a separate notice sent home to families yesterday. Please note the following dates and times:

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<td>Yrs 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Tuesday, February 18th</td>
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All sessions will begin in the Hall before moving to individual classrooms.

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.

***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.
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 February and then from the first week in March, it will be available online only. You can register for a weekly email reminder through the school website:


See you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal

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Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car.

The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.

Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death.

Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.

If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria

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A Message from the Office:
When you make a payment via Bpay, could you please remember to advise the school that you have made this payment by emailing accounts@essexheightsps.vic.edu.au identifying the items you are paying for.

Thank You.
FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE

All staff attended an Asthma education session from the Asthma Foundation on one of our pupil free days. Please read the paragraph below from the Asthma Foundation. Also, with this extra smoke and smog in the air, please be aware this may trigger asthma symptoms so monitor and treat appropriately.

Any questions, please call Julie in the Health Centre between 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Thanks,
Julie Zuk
First Aid Officer

What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Aironir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or www.asthma.org.au

PARENTS & FRIENDS ‘NEWS’

On Tuesday 18th February the PFA will be holding a second hand uniform stall outside the School Hall from 8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Set up will be from 8:30 a.m. If anyone is available to help on this day, we would really appreciate it. Please come to the hall by 8:30 am.

Always remember to label your children’s uniforms clearly as it makes it much easier to return any items that may be lost or found.

The PFA Annual General Meeting will be on the 5th March at 7:30 p.m. in the staff room. All Welcome.

Enjoy your weekend
Betty Ciorciari
Welcome to a wonderful, but rather hot start to the year. It’s great to see so many people riding, walking and scooting to school. We run various activities to encourage families to leave the car at home. As you will have heard in assembly this week, we are continuing with the very successful Riding Records. These are cards which can be attached to your bicycle or scooter; each day you ride a hole will be punched in the card. Once the card is full (10 holes) it will go in the draw to win some great prizes at the end of term, and you will get another one. Please ensure that all cards are named (including class).

Each month we participate in the ‘Hands Up’ survey. This is a Bicycle Victoria initiative to gauge the number of children travelling to school under their own steam rather than in a private car.

We know that many families live too far any to make walking or riding the entire distance realistic, but please consider leaving the car at a convenient location and walking the last kilometre or so. Remember "Part Way is OK".

We’ll be celebrating Ride to School Day on Wednesday 19th March. Keep reading Contact, and listening in assembly to find out more later!

A few safety notes: It is the law as well as a good idea to wear a helmet when you ride your bike or scooter. You must walk your bike/scooter in the school grounds. Please leave the eastern gate on Essex Rd closed - this is for deliveries and rubbish trucks only. The school does not carry insurance for personal property so you may wish to lock your bike/scooter. This is particularly important if you are leaving the bike/scooter after hours or overnight.

The Active Travel Team would love to hear your ideas for new initiatives, or if you have anything you can donate as prizes.

This term 6S will be taking responsibility for clipping the riding records, please see the riders in 6S if you have any queries.

Mfwenna Griffiths, Linda Cornell and Robyn Perkin (you can leave us a message at the office)

Please Note:

Until further notice, the Uniform Shop onsite here at Essex Heights Primary School will only be accepting cash payments for all purchases. Thank you.
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.

For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx
Pink Stumps Day is a nationwide initiative of Cricket Australia and the McGrath Foundation.

On Thursday 27\textsuperscript{th} 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 27\textsuperscript{TH} FEBRUARY**

**11:30 AM**

**COUNCIL OVAL**
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Clare King 0418 303 574
(BA & Dip Ed. Melb U, VIT registered)
NETBALL CLINIC

Date: Thursday 20th February
Time: 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Location: Essex Heights Primary School Netball Courts

Price: Free
Girls and boys in years 4, 5 & 6 welcome to attend!

Come and see if you would like to join a team and play Saturday netball

Contact: Rosemary Gillespie
0408 070 435

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