Welcome Back to Term 4

Welcome back everyone for what promises to be a very exciting Term 4 at Essex Heights PS. I trust that you were all able to enjoy a relaxing time and that the children are refreshed and ready for the learning opportunities that the teachers have planned for this Term.

China Visit

As you are aware, I travelled to China at the end of last Term on a Study Tour with a group of Victorian Primary Principals. We visited the cities of;

Beijing (pop 20,000,000) 4 days including – Olympic precinct, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall

Xian (pop 8,000,000) 3 days – including Terra Cotta Warriors

Nanjing (pop 3,600,000) 3 days – including Official JESIE (Jiangsu Education Services for International Exchange) Dinner

Suzhou (pop 1,300,000) 2 days – including old town and Silk Factory

Shanghai (pop 23,500,000) – 3 days – including City highlights, the Bund, world’s tallest building.
In each city we also visited a local primary school, observing class lessons and holding discussions with Principals and their Leadership Teams. It was a great cultural and professional learning experience for me. It was particularly interesting to note the similarities between our different educational systems, and to discuss and learn from each other around our common challenges.

**International Exchange - Thailand**

Whilst talking about International opportunities, I would like to share some of our School Council discussion from our September Meeting. Earlier this year we hosted a delegation of teachers from Prasarnmit Demonstration School (Elementary), which is associated with the Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok. This school has invited us to consider participating in an exchange program for students. During the July school holidays, our School Council Vice President, James Fitzpatrick, and his family took time to visit Prasarnmit Demonstration School and were given a tour by the school's leadership team.

At School Council we discussed the benefits and challenges of participating in such a program, but felt that the opportunities for Essex Heights were too good to let pass. Therefore, we have invited Prasarnmit Demonstration School to consider sending a small group of students and teachers to visit us in 2014. They would be hosted by our families in a 'home stay' situation and attend classes here at school for a week. If this was a successful exchange, then we could consider sending a similar group to Thailand sometime in the future.

**Holiday Program**

Many of our children have again enjoyed a fantastic Vacation Care Program under the management of Paul Davis and his staff. This is a wonderful service to the families in our community and is a great feature of Essex Heights PS. Thanks again to Paul and team for providing a quality program for all the children.

**Hearts In Harmony – Community Music**

Last Sunday 22 children and their families spent the day at MLC and participated in the Hearts in Harmony Community Music Day.

The Essex Heights children (from Prep - Yr 6) were part of the cross generational choir that rehearsed in the morning and performed in the afternoon. This choir was conducted by Richard Gill so it was a great opportunity for the children to learn from a legend of the Australian music scene. There were also a variety of workshops throughout the day which some families participated in. In fact, some Essex Heights parents impressed so much in the workshops they were included in the band for the final concert!

Thanks to Lisa Carne for working with the children in preparation, and for her participation on the day.

Thanks also to the families who supported this fun musical event.
Showcase – Friday, October 25th
I am really looking forward to our Essex Heights “Showcase”, the children and teachers are rehearsing and preparing to present another amazing show.

Next week some important information will be out about the Showcase to be held at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. There is a great deal of information to be provided and I urge you to read it carefully to ensure you are fully informed about the arrangements for the evening.

Lisa Carne, Lena Papadatos, Alyssa Kennedy and Joan Scott are co-ordinating Showcase and working together with our instrumental staff, teachers and parents. We are all looking forward to the opportunity and enjoyment it will create for our students and their families. We are also looking forward to all members of our school community being involved.

Please also note that we will be launching the Essex Heights CD at Showcase and Order Forms will be available on the night for you to order your CD.

Official School Opening – Friday, November 8th 10:00am
A reminder that we have invited the Minister of Education, Martin Dixon MP, to conduct the ‘Official Opening’ of our renewed Essex Heights PS facilities. This will take place at 10:15 a.m. on November 8th and we would invite interested parents to also join us on that morning. Please note the date in your diary.

Science Talent Search 2013
This year we had a record 23 entries in the ‘Science Talent Search’ conducted by the Science Teachers Association of Victoria. We were very pleased to receive notification that four children received a Minor Bursary Prize in recognition of their projects. Congratulations to Jimmy O (1S), Neharika B (5L), Inga G-H (4AW), Edwin N (4CW). Special congratulations to Zoe G (4S) who was awarded a Major Bursary and will have her project entered in the BHP Billiton Science & Engineering Awards.

Thanks to all the children and families who supported and entered this competition. Thanks also to Jenny Austin and Felicity O’Flynn who organised our participation, and to Jessica Chan and Marita Steward who acted as Judges for the Competition.

Certificates will be presented to the children at Monday’s Assembly.

Planning for 2014
During the next few weeks we will be focussed on the indicative Student Resource Package (School Budget) for our school and the accompanying staffing structure this will enable to occur at Essex Heights PS. At this stage we expect to increase to 24 classes (from 23 this year) and this represents capacity for us. There has continued to be very strong enrolment interest for 2014 as many families in the Mt Waverley area have become aware of the outstanding educational opportunities and facilities available at Essex Heights PS.

In terms of class sizes, the Prep to Year 2 grades will continue at around 20 - 24 students whilst those at Years 3 - 6 comprise numbers between 25 - 28 students. We would also expect to continue our current commitment in the provision of our specialist and support areas, with the probable addition of a ‘Languages’ program. School Council is still investigating the options here and I will communicate the outcome as soon as the consultation and research is completed.

Student Planning and Placement for 2014
Teaching staff are now beginning discussions regarding the placement of children in grades for 2014. This is a complex task as there are many factors to take into account to try and get the best mix for all students to learn to their utmost. When developing class lists, teachers ensure that each class has an equitable spread of boys and girls with a range of academic abilities.

Student compatibility and behaviour is also taken into account and students are placed with some friends with whom they work well. This process takes many hours of consideration and planning with the main objective being to place students so that their learning potential is maximised.
I would ask that if you have matters that are of interest to the educational wellbeing of your child, please complete the form that is available on the Essex Heights website and return to me by Friday 1st November. ([www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au - News / Notices / Class Information for 2014](http://www.essexheightsps.vic.edu.au - News / Notices / Class Information for 2014))

This, of course, is not a case of parents selecting teachers for their children, but rather an opportunity for me to gain an insight into the matters you see as important to the educational wellbeing of your child, and to consider this carefully in the allocation of students to classes. This information will be handled by me in a confidential manner at all times. Please contact me if you have any further queries in this area.

**Hats – Terms 1 & 4**
Consistent with our SunSmart School Policy we expect our students to wear a hat in Terms 1 & 4 to protect against UV and the sun. This is a reasonable position and I would ask that you assist us in this area. Whilst caps might be popular, they usually give little protection, particularly for the ears. I would urge you to assist us to protect your children by purchasing an approved Essex Heights Hat from our uniform shop.

See you around the school,
Andrew Crossett

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We have recorded our CD ... 'AROUND THE WORLD'
It will be available for purchase at this year's Showcase for $15.

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**ACTIVE TRAVEL NEWS**
Congratulations to Riley, Tom and Declan for winning prizes for their riding. It's great to see so many children riding their bikes and scooters to school. If any students would like a Riding Record for their bike or scooter and don’t know how to get one, see Ms. Capsalis in 4CW, or ask your class Junior School Councillors.

Next Wednesday 16th October is Ride to Work Day and as school is our work, we will have a special riding day. The PFA will provide muesli bars or drinks to all children who ride their bikes or scooters to school. In addition, we are offering a special reward to any STAFF MEMBER who rides to school that day (this includes ALL staff, not just teaching staff).

Next month, in conjunction with Vic Health, the City of Monash is running "Walk to School November". Our school will be taking part, so watch this space for more information.

The Active Travel Team (Morwenna and Linda) would welcome input and ideas from any parents with an interest in encouraging children to be more active. You can contact us via the office or email ehpspfa@gmail.com.

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**Working Bee**  **SUNDAY 20 OCTOBER 10am – 2pm**

All families of Essex Heights Primary School are invited to participate in our Working Bee Day on Sunday 20th October 2012 commencing at 10am. Please bring your gardening gloves, wheelbarrow, garden spade, rake and hammer.

It will be a fun day for parents and children to join together and enjoy working around the grounds and gardens of our school.

Thanking you & in appreciation
Essex Heights Primary School Council Grounds Committee
It is with a great deal of sadness that I have to inform the community that Eva Ruiz will be leaving the program and returning to Spain.

In the short time that Eva has been at the program she quickly became a favourite amongst the children. She has been fantastic for the program as her willingness and enthusiastic spirit lead to Eva quickly becoming an integral staff member.

We all wish her the best of luck on her return to Spain and all her future endeavours.

Despedida Eva y que tu futuro sea brillante.

Thank You
Paul Davis

SCHOOL BANKING – IMPORTANT CHANGES

Welcome back to our last term of school banking for the year. Once again we had a very successful term with a commission of $513.00 paid to our school by the Commonwealth Bank. That means our school has received $1626.00 in commissions from the Commonwealth Bank since the beginning of the year thanks to the consistent savers in our school. Unfortunately none of the prizes from the last completion went to our school but to 2 other schools in our area.

There are some important changes to the school banking program for next year so please read on:

1. The dolomite money boxes are being phased out and are only available this year until stocks last. So if you would like one, you must redeem it this year.

2. The Commonwealth Bank is changing over their system and only up to 9 deposits can be carried over. (eg. If your child has made 45 deposits in total but has only claimed 2 rewards, we can only carry over 5 deposits and not 25). So, if your child has any unclaimed rewards, they must be claimed this year.

At this stage all rewards on the reward card are available. However, stock may run out, so the sooner you claim the better. We also still have some USB sticks available from last year.

Please be aware that it can take up to two weeks to order rewards, so please be patient.
Thank you very much for supporting the school banking program and helping your children remember to bring their bank books every Friday. Please remember to fill in both parts of the deposit slip.

I would also like to thank the reliable volunteers Lena Chin, Linda Cornell, Morwenna Griffiths, Kylie Moore, Felicity Bolitho, Leigh Sherpa, Caroline Thomas that help every Friday as well as casual volunteers that come and help from time to time and make the school banking program possible.

If you have any queries about school banking, you can either write a note, come and see us in the hall on Friday morning between 9-11am or contact Stef via email at sscanning10@gmail.com

Welcome back to Term 4. Try some sushi, tuna, chicken, teriyaki, Californian or vegetable or a cool salad in a noodle box. Fruit salad is back too – delicious selection of at least 4 fruits to cool you down.

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PILATES

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.karensphilates.com
Waverley Gymnastics Centre
GLEN WAVERLEY CAMPUS

WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO LEARN HANDSTANDS, CARTWHEELS & SOMERSAULTS?? HERE’S THEIR CHANCE!
Gymnastics is not only a fantastic and fun sport in its own right; it also gives an exceptional base level of coordination, skill and confidence that assists children to achieve in all their other sports and life skills!

Waverley’s Glen Waverley campus at Wesley College is an outstanding venue, with exceptionally fully qualified coaches, offering fun and challenging gymnastics classes for primary school-aged children of all abilities! We also run daytime classes at our Mt Waverley venue for pre-school aged children.

Times: Monday & Tuesday afternoons, & Saturdays.
Address: 620 High Street Road, Glen Waverley
(Melways Ref. 62 A12)

MENTION THIS AD TO RECEIVE 10% OFF TERM 4 REGISTRATION!

For more information, or to book a trial class, please call 9887-9611, or visit www.waverley.gymnastics.org.au.
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 2 exercise books: $30

Venue:
6 Mount Street Neighbourhood House
Glen Waverley 3150

Time: After School Hours

Please contact Choon Lim at GCM Abacus

Method:-
Mobile: 0431 616 364   After hours: 03-97580731
Email: choonbaelim@yahoo.com