Class/Building Allocations

A great deal of thought and planning has gone into the allocation of classes to buildings for 2014. Many factors have been taken into account with the prime focus being on keeping Year Levels together in the same building, as far as possible.

Consequently, there will be some significant changes from the structure we have had this year.

The grade/building configuration will be;

**Eucalyptus**
- Preps – 4 classes
- Year 2 – 3 classes

**Banksia**
- Year 5 – 3 classes
- Year 6 – 3 classes

**Violet**
- Year 1 – 5 classes;
- Year 3 – 1 class;
- Year 4 – 1 class

**Portables**
- Year 3 – 2 classes
- Year 4 – 2 classes

Please also note that the new Indonesian Languages program will take place in the foyer area of the Stadium, which will be set up as an additional classroom.

### CALENDAR DATES

**TERM 4**
- 18th December: Year 6 Big Day Out
- 18th December: Reports to be distributed
- 20th December: Last day of Term 4 –
  - 12.45 p.m. – Final Assembly
  - 1.30 p.m. finish

**2014**
- 28th / 29th January: Staff return to school
- 30th January: Students in Yrs 1 – 6 commence school
- 31st January: Students in Prep commence school
The following represents the major roles of teaching staff for 2014. We have 24 classes which is an increase of one on 2013. As you know, we are also pleased we have been able to increase our specialist and support programs for 2014 with the inclusion of a ‘Languages – Indonesian’ program for all students as part of the weekly Specialist classes.

| Prep         | Lena Papadatos (Prep Co-ordinator) | E2  |
| Prep         | Lisa Carne                         | E5  |
| Prep         | Pam Rowler (0.5) & Natalie Zaibak (0.5) | E1  |
| Prep         | Felicity O’Flynn                    | E6  |
| Year 1       | Carolyn Wilson – (Yr 1/2 Co-ordinator) | V5  |
| Year 1       | Kristi Lloyd                       | V7  |
| Year 1       | Marg Fitzpatrick                   | V1  |
| Year 1       | Lois Banahashemi (0.8) & Julie Millett (0.2) | V2  |
| Year 1       | Glynn Campbell                     | V6  |
| Year 2       | Linda Fisher (Yr 2 Team Leader)    | E4  |
| Year 2       | Sarah Trebilcock                   | E3  |
| Year 2       | Jessica Chan                       | E7  |
| Year 3       | Maria Capsalis (Yr 3/4 Co-ordinator) (0.8)/Carolyn Walker (0.2) | P2 (Portable) |
| Year 3       | Jenny Austin (0.8) / Carolyn Walker (0.2) | P1 (Portable) |
| Year 3       | Kirsten Lightfoot                  | V3  |
| Year 4       | Sonja Ludvik – (Yr 4 Team Leader)  | V4  |
| Year 4       | Andrew Russell                     | P4 (Portable) |
| Year 4       | Anne Scerri                        | P3  |
| Year 5       | Janet McGinn – (Yr 5 Team Leader)  | B1  |
| Year 5       | Marita Steward                     | B5  |
| Year 5       | Brianna Hendy                      | B2  |
| Year 6       | Anita Kuchta – (Yr 5/6 Co-ordinator) | B6  |
| Year 6       | Lauren Braithwaite                 | B4  |
| Year 6       | Renae Simpson                      | B3  |

**Specialist Team**

Program for Students with Disabilities
- Kathy Halliday (0.8) – Specialist Co-ordinator
- Ina Kuehlich (0.2)

Visual Arts
- Anne Wootton (0.6), Carolyn Walker (0.4)

Music
- Tanya Dolence

Physical Education
- Ben Wooster

Languages – Indonesian
- Alex Douros

Literacy/ESL Intervention
- Joan Scott (0.2)
- Annegret Talman (0.4)
- Helen Broderick (0.4)
- Judy McKay (0.2)

Library Technician
- Katrina George (0.4)

**Principal Team**

Principal
- Andrew Crossett

Assistant Principal
- Joan Scott (0.8)

Assistant Principal
- Ina Kuehlich

The allocation of our teaching staff to classes is a complex process involving considerable negotiation and arrangements. We are farewelling Kara Soccio for 2014 as she is expecting her first child and we wish her and her husband Peter, all the best for the exciting time ahead. We also welcome Kelvin Tang who has done a great job in replacing Janet McGinn in Year 6. Kelvin stepped in at short notice and has worked closely with Anita Kuchta to ensure the Year 6 program has been maintained without disruption. Thanks to Kelvin and we wish him well for next year. We expect Janet McGinn to return full time for 2014.

We also welcome four new teachers onto the team for 2014. Sarah Trebilcock will be taking a Yr 2 class; Glynn Campbell in Yr 1; Kirsten Lightfoot in Yr 3 and Alex Douros into the Indonesian Languages role. We are really pleased to have these high quality teachers joining our staff here at Essex Heights PS.

**B-Pay Coming to Essex Heights**

We are pleased to advise that we will introduce B-Pay at the commencement of the new school year, with the view to give parents another effective payment method for some school charges. We will be sending home a letter outlining the process for paying by B-Pay and what charges you will be able to pay, with your 2014 School Fees notification.
**Student placement**
This complex task has been occurring over the last few weeks. Our students will have the opportunity to meet with their 2014 class teacher on Wednesday 18th of December.

**Student Reports**
We also expect to distribute these to all parents on Wednesday, 18th December as scheduled. If you would like to make an appointment with our staff in relation to any matters raised, please contact your child’s class teacher.

**Early Dismissal – Friday December 20th – 1:30pm**
A reminder to parents that school will finish on Friday, 20th of December at 1.30pm. We will of course have After School Care commencing from this time. As is traditional, we will have a final assembly at 12.45pm and this will be conducted in the school Hall.
Please note that our final newsletter will be distributed next Wednesday 19th December.

**School Return – 2014**
School will resume for our students in Year 1 – 6 on Thursday 30th January 2014. Our Prep students will commence on Friday 31st January 2014.

*See you around the school,*

Andrew Crossett

---

**BASC**
There are still a number of families that have not paid their accounts for 2013. **Please pay your accounts by Monday 16/12/13.**

I would like to welcome the wonderful new staff to the program, Angela, Delan, Jess and Jan. Their enthusiasm, supportive and warm caring personas ensure that they provide all the children attending the program with high quality care.

On Friday the 13/12/13 the Before and After Care Program will operate out of Eucalyptus due to the grade 6 graduation.

The program is taking enrolments for the January Vacation Care Program and Curriculum Days on the 28/1/14 and 29/1/14. Enrolment forms can be picked up from the hall.

Thank you
Paul Davis

---

**Take Home books**
Thank you to all the parents who have helped with our mammoth job of covering more than 1000 books. The books are now in their boxes and ready for the beginning of 2014. I’m sure that your children will really love having some new books to bring home next year. At the beginning of 2014 we will be getting new books from Woolworth’s shopper docket deals, so we will be asking for more help with book covering.

A special thanks to Martha Kotsifas and Caroline Thomas for their extra help, checking off books and cutting out the contact for all the books. Your willing and cheerful help was greatly appreciated and this huge job couldn’t have been accomplished without your efforts.
Season’s greetings to all,
Judy McKay
PARENTS & FRIENDS ‘NEWS’

Hot Dog day was a huge success once again and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Betty, Tim, Sonia, Penny, Shai, Maren, Magdalene, Anne, Karin and Chris who gave their time to help on Thursday.

Maria Skouteris

Connections Uniting Care Christmas Appeal

A big thank you to those families that have donated to the Connections Uniting Care Christmas Appeal. There are still a few days left to do so. We kindly ask for non-perishable food or gifts to be donated to those in need this Christmas. If you have something you would like to donate please drop into the school office or please leave under the Christmas tree in V7 by Monday 16th December. This is the day that all items will be collected by Uniting Care.

Thank you very much for your support.
The Junior School Council Team.

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

Our last day of school banking will be the last day of term Friday, 20/12/13. We will then deliver all banking pouches directly to your children’s classrooms so they can be taken home for the Christmas holidays.

I would also like to remind everybody that your child will only receive their bonus interest for the months of January if they make at least one deposit in January in a branch or over the internet. Thanks to all parents, volunteers, teachers and staff for supporting the school banking program for 2013.

We will recommence banking on Friday, 08/01/2014. We look forward to it!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the school banking team.

Thank you everyone,

Our Guinea Pigs have now found homes for the Christmas holidays
2014 Science Talent Search Theme

2014 Theme: - Food for our future: Science feeding the world

2014 Topics:
Creative Writing - Lower Primary and Primary
1. You eat what?!
2. Everyone is a farmer.
3. Who would have thought that.
4. Eating our way to the future.

Posters & Scientific Wall Charts - Lower Primary and Primary
1. Insects are food.
2. Where have all the bees gone?
3. There is more food in the sea.
4. Farming our backyard.

Posters & Scientific Wall Charts - Junior & Intermediate
1. Feeding the future with technology.
2. Where have all the bees gone?
3. Superfoods.
4. Safeguarding our food.

2014 Dates:
3rd March 2014 - Online registration opens
2nd June 2014 - Online registration closes
24th/25th July 2014 - Entries for Experimental Research/Creative Writing to arrive at STAV
9th August 2014 - STS Judging Day - Posters, Computer Programs, Photography, Videos, Inventions, Models
27th October 2014 - STS Exhibition and Presentation Day at La Trobe University

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.

# December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Church Service</td>
<td>Orientation Day for 2014 Preps</td>
<td>Hot Dog Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orientation Day – Yr 6 at Sec. Scls.</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Orientation Day – Yrs 1-6 new stud.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Helper’s Morning Tea</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Big Day Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of School 1:30 p.m. finish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# January 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>14th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>32nd</td>
<td>33rd</td>
<td>34th</td>
<td>35th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff return</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| | | | | | Staff Day only | Prep commence 9:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Essex Heights Netball Club is looking for girls and boys in Years 4, 5 & 6 who would like to play netball on Saturdays at Ashwood Netball Courts in 2014.

For further information, please contact:
  • Elaine Newton on 0411 325 305
  or
  • Rosemary Gillespie on: 0408 070 435