Welcome to 2013 and another year of opportunities for students beyond the classroom. For those of you who are new to Essendon North Primary School, this newsletter provides information about competitions and programs, which your child might like to become involved in, as well as acknowledging the students who have achieved outstanding results.

**BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards**

Last year a number of students entered the Science Talent awards and as a result of this, Jem’s entry was entered into the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards which is a national competition. Jem’s entry was chosen as one of 4 to win the Primary section of the awards. This is a significant achievement for Jem. Well done!

‘Intelligence is something we are born with. Thinking is a skill that must be learned.’

Edward De Bono

**ICAS Competition Dates for 2013**

Once again we will be offering students the opportunity to participate in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools). These competitions are open to all students from Grades 3 to 6. In the past our students have received some outstanding results in all competitions. Dates for the NSW competitions are as follows:

- **Science** – June 5th ($8.80)
- **Writing** – June 17th to 21st ($18.70)
- **English** – July 31st ($8.80)
- **Mathematics** – August 13th ($8.80)

Further details will be sent home with requests for payments early Term 2. Details can be found at the UNSW Global website: eea.unsw.edu.au or you can speak to Carole Upton, Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

**Brainwaves Club**

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Brainwaves Club program is based on the philosophy that highly able and gifted children have particular needs for stimulation and challenge that match their high level of curiosity and desire to learn. In addition, children with specialised skills and talents can work with peers with like skills and also further their interests, social skills and self-esteem. It is G.A.T.E.WAYS aim to facilitate this positive social interaction in a non-threatening club atmosphere.

The clubs operate fortnightly on a Saturday afternoon from 1.20 to 4.30pm at Taylors Lakes Campus, 27 - 57 Robertsons Rd Taylors Lakes.

- Semester 1: 23/2 9/3 23/3 20/4 4/5 18/5 1/6 15/6.
- Semester 2: 27/7 10/8 24/8 7/9 12/10 26/10 16/11 23/11.

Please see your child’s teacher if you would like them to complete the necessary nomination forms. Further details can be found at:

http://www.gateways.edu.au/programs.htm#Brainwaves
Science Talent Search 2013
The Science Talent Search (STS) is an annual, science based competition open to all primary and secondary students in Victoria. We have been involved in the competition for the past 4 years with much success, including bursaries and medals. The competition is open to all students from Prep to Year 6 and entries can be individual or group. Further details including the handbook can be found at: http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/index.html. This year the theme is A Century of Australian Science. The key date for Creative Writing and Experimental Research is Thursday July 25th and the judging day for all other entries is Saturday August 10th. Further details and entry forms will be sent home early Term 2.

iThink Quiz
Here's a question for the creative thinkers:

What could you use a lemon for?

Write or draw down as many answers as you can and hand them in at the office by Thursday February 14th. Winners will be announced assembly and results will be published in the next edition of Beyond the Classroom.

iThink Club
The iThink Club was very popular in 2012 and will continue in 2013 beginning in the next few weeks. The club is open to students who are interested in working hard to stretch their thinking in a challenging environment. Last year students were involved in a range of activities including: card house building, logic puzzles, newspaper towers, game creation, creative drawing etc. Activities will continue to add new challenges in individual and group thinking and are open to students from Grades 2 to 6. Stay tuned.

365 things to make you go ‘hmmm…’
If you’re after something to make you think try this website: http://www.sparkyteaching.com/resources/thinkingskills/hmmm.php

As always, if you have any information regarding programs or events that may be of interest to other students or parents please feel free to email the details to me at: upton.carole.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
There is a big question for you to answer each and every day.