My first day of school was good because I made some friends. Celine.

My first day of school was super because I got to draw. Rocco.

My first day of school was really great because I like school when I am there. Simon.
My first day of school was good because I liked meeting my buddy Natalie.
Emma.

My first day of school was fantastic because I was playing with all my friends.
Bronwen.

My first day of school was brilliant because I had so much fun playing on the playground.
Raj.

My first day of school was good because I have been wanting to go to school for ages.
Zac.
A Message from Scott Mullen—Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2013 school year. I trust you had a safe and relaxing summer holiday, and are ready for another important learning year at Essendon North Primary School.

Welcome to our new students and families, and welcome back to all our Year 1 to 6 students. At the start of every year, it is always a thrill to see the children again, and hear about their holiday adventures and learning plans for the year ahead. Can I take this opportunity to welcome our new members of staff: Rose Anderson (5RA), Jamie Whichello (1JW), Aaron Wood (3/4AW), Jan Dansey (Integration Team), Angela Pricone (Integration Team) and Sue Trevillian (Administration) who will be joining us for Term 1 only. A very warm welcome back Kate Barletta (formerly Kate Story) to the position of Assistant Principal and also to Linda Jasenia (Integration Team) who has returned to our school after having a wonderful opportunity to work in the Victorian DEECD for the past two and a half years. As Jike Jones has recently transferred to Keilor Heights Primary School, Paul Medveczky has returned to assist with school maintenance and Lucy Deamicis has returned to work with the integration team for the month of February.

The start of this school year has been exceptional. Toward the end of last year, our staff spent an entire curriculum day planning the year’s curriculum for students. Every classroom has been able to provide high quality instructional learning and teaching in Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry from day one. We are very proud that our learning time in classrooms is important time and is maximized upon for every student.

As a staff, we aim to provide an excellent educational experience for every student in every classroom at all times. We do appreciate your consideration and courtesy in allowing our staff to maintain high standards for learning and teaching. We pride ourselves on our ongoing professional learning program and best teaching practice, and thank you for respecting the professionalism and expertise of all our staff to allow our educators the opportunity to teach your child to highest quality level. We are proud of the way that our staff and families work in partnership to provide the highest quality educational experience for all children. Our school’s Community Code of Conduct which can be found at http://www.enps.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies/ is intended to support the development of a high quality, harmonious and productive school community. Our staff understand that parents and guardians may have a genuine concern or a complaint. The school acknowledges its responsibility to manage parent concerns and complaints fairly and efficiently, and in accordance with relative state-wide legislation. The school’s policy and procedures for addressing concerns and complaints is available through the school’s website at http://www.enps.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies/

We are a school that pursues excellence. Our staff are committed to strategic research and futures’ thinking, and designs educational experiences for children that are developed based on international best practice, and optimise the learning capacity of all students. To this end, we regularly conduct strategic reviews of all aspects of our school and continuously develop plans for improvement. 2013 is no exception, and the following goals are taken from the school’s Strategic Plan (2011 to 2014) to guide school improvement and the year ahead at our school:

Student Learning

a.) To develop a high quality differentiated curriculum that will meet the individual learning needs and abilities of students, and will guarantee learning progress for every child in every classroom
b.) To enhance the use of 21st Century technologies and innovations across the curriculum
c.) To develop a consistently applied whole school approach to assessment and reporting that utilises a school-wide tracking system for monitoring the progress of every child in every classroom
d.) To unite the community of Essendon North Primary School in the provision of high quality education for all students, and build a culture of high performance which is visible, valued and actively promoted

Student Wellbeing and Engagement

a.) To further develop a learning environment that fosters student wellbeing, develops student voice, and strengthens students’ social competencies and engagement
Student Pathways and Transitions

a.) To provide a smooth and seamless transition for students in their movements from pre-school through the AusVELS levels and into secondary school

On Friday February 22\textsuperscript{nd}, the school is holding a curriculum day. The staff will be using this day to work with two highly regarded and well-known educational consultants (Muffy Hand and Julie Chandler). The focus for our day will be on the further development of high quality professional learning teams, and strengthening our high performance school culture and community. One of our goals for this year is on ‘uniting the community of Essendon North Primary School in the provision of high quality education for all students and building a culture of high performance which is visible, valued and actively promoted’. We believe it is important that our learning and work as a staff occurs early in the year so that we can put in to place important strategies to support the achievement of this school wide goal. On Thursday February 21\textsuperscript{st}, the school improvement team which includes the school’s principal class members, leading teachers, department leaders, curriculum leaders and team leaders, will also be learning and working with Muffy and Julie in preparation for the curriculum day on the Friday. Camp Australia will be available if you require care for your child on Friday February 22\textsuperscript{nd}.

Again, welcome back to the new school year and thank you for selecting Essendon North Primary School for your child. In this newsletter, we have provided an article on how you can assist your child to make this year the best year ever at school. Throughout the year, other articles will be published in the newsletter for your interest and use. Please be aware that the newsletter will be distributed every Wednesday fortnight and will also be uploaded on to the school’s website.

We look forward to the continued partnership for your child’s education.

Scott Mullen
Principal

Office News

School Newsletter

The School newsletter is available via:
2. An email with a direct link to the current school newsletter

If you would like to receive notification of a newsletter, please send an email to: essendon.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au with your name, eldest child’s name and email address/es.

Working with Children Check

The Working with Children (WWC) Check helps protect children from physical and sexual harm. The Check was introduced in Victoria in 2006 and aims to prevent people who may pose a risk to the safety of children from working or volunteering with them. The WWC Check is an on going assessment by the Department of Justice of a person’s suitability to work and volunteer with children, examining relevant serious sexual, physical and drug offences in a person’s national criminal history and, where appropriate, their professional history.

It is a requirement of the Department of Justice and School Council that all people who volunteer at Essendon North Primary School have a current WWC Check.

Application forms are available from Australia Post. Once you have lodged your application please present the copy of your WWCC application and receipt to the office for copying and placing on the schools records.

While your application is being processed and as a cardholder, you must inform the Department of Justice each time your personal and employer or voluntary agency details change.

Kaye Sperling
Business Manager.
ENPS Code of Conduct

. Be responsible
. Be respectful
. Be a role model
. Be safe

School Timetable

8.45am to 9.45am Session 1
9.45am to 10.45am Session 2
10.45am to 11.15am Recess
11.15am to 12.15pm Session 3
12.15pm to 1.15pm Session 4
1.15pm to 1.30pm Lunch Time Eating
1.30pm to 2.15pm Lunch Time Play
2.15pm to 3.15pm Session 5

SCHOOL PHOTOS

. Preps individual photos will be taken on Tuesday, 12th February, 2013. Order envelopes are to be returned by Monday, 11th February, 2013.

. Grades 1—6 individual photos and Prep—6 grade photos will be taken on Tuesday, 30th July, 2013.

. Sibling photos will be taken on Thursday, 1st August, 2013

Students are required to wear full school uniform on photo days.

Enrol now for 2013 Drama Classes

Wednesdays at St John Bosco’s School Hall
Juniors (Prep to Yr 2) - 3:20 to 4:20 pm
Seniors (Yrs 3 to 6) - 4:20 to 5:20 pm
Register online for a FREE Trial Class for your child
In this FUN drama program developing Confidence, Communication Skills and Creativity.
www.kidsupfront.com.au
phone 1300 821 828

kids upfront
DRAMA ACADEMY
At the end of last year, the school council of Essendon North Primary School requested a change in size and configuration of the council. The Victorian DEECD has now approved this request. The School Council will change from having 15 members (5 DEECD Members, 9 Parents and 1 Community Member) to having 12 members (4 DEECD Members, 6 Parents and 2 Community Members). School Council wishes to thank the outgoing councilors (Charles Barui, Edi Candotti, Greg Catterall, Adrienne Riscica and Vanessa Short) for their contributions to the council and school, and also to Andrew Sprague who resigned from council at the end of last year.

Due to change in size and configuration, and the causal vacancy now available, the School Council is seeking four (4) nominations from the school’s parent community who may wish to be a school councilor. There are X3 two year terms of office and X1 one year term of office (casual vacancy).

What are the objectives of School Council?

- Assist in the efficient governance of the school
- Ensure students’ best interests are primary
- Enhance the educational opportunities for students
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations

What is the role of school council members?

- All school councilors need to respect other members’ opinions and support and uphold all council decision
- Parent members bring expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community
- DEECD members bring educational expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community

Do I have what it takes to be to school councilor?

- School Council is seeking four (4) parents who posses specific professional expertise and tertiary qualifications in law, graphic design, publicity and communications, architecture, building construction or landscape design.
- You need to be keen, but you don't need to be an expert
- You need to like people and be able to work in a team
- You do need to be prepared to commit the time needed to ensure the work of council gets done

What is the commitment?

- School council meets at least 8 times in each year and at least once per term
- Meetings will be approximately 1.5 hours in duration
- All school councilors are expected to sit on at least one subcommittee
- Subcommittees generally meet at lease twice each term

How do I nominate to be a school councilor?

Nomination forms can be collected from the school’s Principal. Nominations close at 4pm on Monday February 18th 2013. In the event that the school receives more nominations than vacancies, an election will then take place. The principal is also available to meet with any interested nominees and can be contacted on 03 9379 3979.
Welcome to our new Preps and their families. As your children embark on their journey in learning to read, it is important to remember the importance that picture books at home play in this journey.

Listening to stories assists in early literacy development. Picture books not only introduce children to new words and helps grow their vocabulary but they also learn skills like phonic awareness, comprehension and fluency. Encourage your child to pick out small words such as the, and, is etc.

Children love art and are drawn to picture books by the artwork on the cover. Illustrations’ allow young readers to analyse the story. When children are having difficulty, the illustrations can help them figure out the meaning of what they are reading.

Picture books set children on the road to becoming life-long readers. Most of all, picture books are fun! Your child is allowed to borrow 2 picture books during their weekly library session. Children must bring a library bag as this helps to protect our books from damage.

Below is a list of recommended Australian picture books. Please see the library notice board for more suggestions and all future Library news.

Pamela Allen ‘Who sank the boat’
Rod Clement ‘Edward the emu’
Mem Fox ‘Where is the green sheep?’ ‘Possum Magic’
Jackie French ‘Diary of a wombat’
Libby Gleeson ‘Where’s Mum?’
Bob Graham ‘Queenie the Bantam’ ‘Let’s get a pup’
Alison Lester ‘Are we there yet?’

Julie Schenk

We are a Sun Smart school and all students are required to wear a hat whilst outside during school time. We ask that you ensure your child has a sun smart hat and that their hat has their name clearly marked on it.

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Please remind your child/ren that bikes and scooters are not to be ridden inside the school grounds at any time. This includes before and after school. Students riding a bike and scooter are also required to wear a helmet, and are to park it at the bike rack next to the shed.
Can we take the opportunity to remind everyone to park cars in the allocated parking zones when dropping and collecting children.

We all need to ensure that children arrive and leave our school safely. Please be reminded that the staff car park is not a drop off and collection zone.

The parking zones outside the school on Gillies Street have a restricted time of 2 minutes between 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm. Longer-term parking is available opposite the school’s oval in McCulloch Street, and further down Gillies Street and on Keilor Road.

Students are to use the school crossings on Keilor Road and McCulloch Street to cross the road, and are required to use the school gates to enter and exit the school.

If you notice anyone not obeying the road laws around our school please contact the local police on 9373 5200 and Moonee Valley Council on 9243 8888.

Whilst Essendon North Primary School acknowledges that the use of mobile phones have become part of rapid communications in everyday life, the school requires students not to bring mobile phones to school. The presence of mobile phones in classrooms and in school bags can cause undue disruptions to curriculum programs, and the school cannot guarantee the safety and security of mobile phones at school. Students are under the duty of care of school staff at all times, and any/all emergency messages are conveyed to students by staff. If there are special circumstances that lead parents to believe that their child needs to have a mobile phone for use before and after school then an arrangement can be made with the principal.

A consistent school uniform creates a sense of collective and individual pride in students and their identification with the school. The school uniform at Essendon North Primary School is compulsory so please ensure your child wears the correct school uniform whilst:

- During school hours (unless specified)
- When engaged in school activities out of school hours or when representing the school
- Sporting events, including interschool sport and representative teams
- School photo days
- Attending all excursions

To view a copy of the school’s uniform policy, please visit the school’s website at http://www.enps.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies/
A Message from the Assistant Principals

What a start to 2013!

This year sees a new approach at ENPS with two Assistant Principals and we are both very excited to be back and working together.

Sharing the Assistant Principal role means that we will have some specific responsibilities, while other times working alongside each other.

From the community perspective the clearest means of distinguishing our roles is through the Student Engagement and Wellbeing lens.

**Prep - 2**
Will be overseen by Margo Edgar.

**Grades 3-6**
Will be overseen by Kate Barletta.

Two Assistant Principals also means that we now share an office. For both of us, the importance of confidentiality is paramount to our position. We are both very comfortable with managing our roles, working together and have a shared understanding of the importance of flexibility with our working space. We wont be offended if you would prefer to speak to one of us confidentially and are both quite okay with being politely asked to comply. While at other times we will work closely together and will share responsibilities.

We are both bursting with enthusiasm and excited by the opportunities ahead for the ENPS learning community.

*Margo Edgar and Kate Barletta*
Assistant Principals

On a personal note…
I am very excited to be back from maternity leave and thank everyone for the ongoing support and well wishes over the past months with the safe arrival of my baby daughter Bella. While I love being a mum, I have missed my work at ENPS and am thrilled to be back and a part of the team.

*Kate Barletta*

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**School Sport Victoria** (SSV) actively promotes school sport for all Victorian school students, years 4 to 12, as a means of supporting schools in developing their students’ health and well being. SSV operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Membership of School Sport Victoria is open to all Victorian schools, providing the opportunities to participate in programs that extends from grassroots intra and inter school sport, to district, division, region, state and national levels. Students attending schools affiliated with SSV are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2013 School Sport Australia National Championships. Further information is available from your School’s Sport Coordinator or on the School Sport Victoria website, [www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au). Parents and teachers are encouraged to regularly visit the site.
## Dates to Remember

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