A Message From The Principal….

A Whole School Approach to the Teaching of Mathematics

Last Friday the staff had the privilege of working and learning with Rob Vingerhoets at the school. Rob is a highly respected educator who presented a full day of engaging and motivational mathematics professional development to staff. One of the important messages of the day was the importance of students understanding the process of mathematics and the process of problem solving through open-ended tasks. Therefore as a team, we revisited the lesson structure that we have developed for the teaching of mathematics across the school as well as explored a range of consistent classroom based strategies that students use to solve mathematical problems in open ended tasks. These problem solving strategies include draw a diagram, write a number sentence, make a model, solve a similar problem, work backwards, make a table, and guess and check.

A Focus of Quality Learning in Classrooms

At Essendon North Primary School, we aim to instill a passion and capacity for life-long learning. This requires that the process of learning and teaching is made clear and explicit to all learners so that they are able to articulate, and take greater responsibility for, their own learning. In each classroom across our school, a ‘learning intention’ is presented to the students at the beginning of each lesson. A learning intention ‘describes what pupils should know, understand or be able to do by the end of the lesson or series of lessons’ (Learning Unlimited, 2004). Current educational research demonstrates that effective learning intentions improve student achievement significantly. Therefore our focus as a school is on what a student is going to learn, or has learned (learning), rather than on what the student will do, or has done (task/activity). Some important questions you may like to ask your child:

- what is/was the learning intention for reading, writing or numeracy today?
- what is your learning goal?
- what is your learning plan?
- how will/do you know you have achieved your learning goal?
- what evidence will/do you have?
- what is the next step for your learning?

Social and Personal Challenges for Kids

In this newsletter, I have placed an article by Michael Grose that examines ‘what bullying isn’t, and what to do when it happens’. ENPS promotes positive behaviors, and aims to be pro-active in building shared understandings, expectations and strategies for children’s social and personal development in a safe learning environment. If you do have concerns that you wish to discuss regarding your child’s social and personal development, you are welcome to contact your child’s teacher or the office. The article also highlights that parents can provide their child/ren with strategies to build personal resilience and coping skills. Some of the strategies you could share with your child may include:

- learning to laugh about it
- don’t let it spoil everything
- get away from it all
- get some help
- accept what’s happened
- persist and persevere
- keep your perspective
- let’s set a goal or two
- be flexible with your thinking

School Council Updates

Following the recent call for nominations for the parent member category to school council, the number of parent nominations is more than the number of vacancies. Therefore a ballot will shortly take place. Early next week, you will receive information regarding the elections and a ballot for you to cast your vote via the post. As parents on school council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that help shape the direction of the school, I encourage you to carefully consider each candidate and participate in this important process.

The following committees are also looking for members:

- Education Committee. The role of the Education Committee is to report on past and future teaching and learning practices at ENPS, and support and make recommendations in keeping with the strategic plan and Annual Implementation Plan.

- Grounds and Maintenance Committee. The role of the grounds and facilities committee is to develop and implement a maintenance priority plan for the school that encompasses the school environment as a whole, monitor the plan’s impact on learning and student welfare, identifying future buildings and grounds requirements for
the school, ensure that grounds and buildings are safe, well maintained, functional, purposeful and inviting, provide flexible options that allow teacher/class customization to take place within the scope of the ENPS brand, monitor and make recommendations to council on improving the learning environment.  

- Friends of Essendon North (FOEN). The role of FOEN is to provide parents and the community with relevant support, fund raising, and to create opportunities for positive community building and school culture development.

Committees typically meet twice per term, and provide important perspectives and directions for school council. If you wish to indicate your availability and willingness to be part of a committee, please leave your details at the school’s office and the convener of the committee will contact you at the beginning of next term.

Classroom Helpers Training Session

Thank you to parents and guardians who attended the school’s Classroom Helpers Training Session last week. The school received an excellent response from parents and guardians who are willing to assist in classrooms and/or our specialist programs. In order to assist in classrooms, all volunteers are required to possess a current Working With Children’s Card and will also be required to undertake a Classroom Helpers Training Program. Early next term, the school will be running a second training program for the parents and guardians who were unable to attend last week’s session. Further information will be communicated in the newsletter.

Staffing Updates

At the end of next week, Kate Story will be taking Family Leave from the school. Since the beginning of the year, Kate has worked exceptionally hard to provide continuity and stability in the role of Assistant Principal for our school. I thank Kate for her hard work and commitment, and wish her and the family the very best for the exciting journey ahead. The school is currently in the process of appointing an Acting Assistant Principal who will commence in the role at the beginning of term 2 until the end of the year.

Lydia Sprague has been presented with an opportunity beyond the school, which she has accepted. As a result Lydia will be leaving ENPS at the end of this term. Lydia began at ENPS as a Graduate Teacher five years ago, and has made a significant impact on the education of many students and the development of technology across our school. She will be missed but we wish her all the very best in her future endeavors. The school is currently in the process of appointing a high quality teacher to Grade 6LS who will commence in the role at the beginning of term 2 until the end of the year.

ENPS Green Thumbs Club

The school would love to hear from you if you are able to help our gardening program in any of the following ways:
- Donating agapanthus, camellia trees or bamboo plants
- Donating some large garden pots
- Volunteering to assist with some gardening
- Making a monetary donation (small or large) for the club to purchase additional trees, plants, shrubs or gardening pots for the school’s grounds. Donations can be made at the office.

School Gates and Visitors

A reminder that the school’s gates will be locked at 9am and will reopen at 3pm. For safety reasons, any visitor to the school or parent/classroom helper is required to report to and sign in at the office.

Coffee Alfresco at ENPS

A reminder that every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm to 3.30pm, Coffee Alfresco will be at ENPS serving coffee in the main school quadrangle. Come along and enjoy a coffee, and meet other parents.

Movie Night

A reminder that the school’s movie night will be held on Saturday March 24th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Term 1 Holiday Program

If your child/ren requires a holiday program for the upcoming holiday period, Camp Australia offers a program at our school. Throughout the holiday period, Camp Australia will also be relocating from the art room into the new gym. For further information regarding the holiday program, please contact Camp Australia.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term will finish at 2.30pm on Friday March 30th. The school will have an assembly at 2.10pm in the main quadrangle. If you require after care for your child on this day, please contact Camp Australia.

Scott Mullen
Principal
Students of the Week

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<th>P AC</th>
<th>Adam, Mia</th>
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<th>Emily</th>
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<td>P AJ</td>
<td>Jessie, Jimmy, James</td>
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<td>P KD</td>
<td>Connor, Georgia</td>
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<td>2 LM</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>6 LD</td>
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<td>2 TM</td>
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<td>6 LS</td>
<td>Corey, Pelin</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Taylor, Nicholas, Deepak</td>
<td>6 MG</td>
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Strathmore Secondary College Tours & Application Process

College Tours will run during the period 19th March till 18th May 2011 and commence at 9am sharp. It is essential to telephone the College on 9379 7999 to make a booking as the Tours fill very quickly. We do not run open days.

Documentation: The College gives priority to children who reside within our designated area and you are required to provide proof of permanent residence before an application will be considered. This can be done by providing:

- A current rate notice or a valid lease agreement from a real estate agent covering the whole of the school year for which you are applying (2013) – in the full name/s of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
- Plus other documentation in support of your proof of residence at least three pieces (including utility bills etc). Note: we do not accept Drivers Licence or phone bills as proof of residence.
- Full birth certificate for your child (showing parents names)
- Passport and valid visa where relevant

Any enrolment based on false information will be withdrawn.

You can view the map on our website at www.strathmore.vic.edu.au - click on Enrolments then Neighbourhood Boundary. You must live inside the designated area.

Curriculum Grounds and Music Scholarship

Each year we offer a Music scholarship and that will be advertised in our local papers and on the Strathmore Secondary College website in the middle of March 2012. Students who live outside our zone can lodge an application on Curriculum Grounds, those forms will be available on the website by the middle of March 2012.

If you have any enquiries please contact Dianne King at the College via email king.dianne.f@edumail.vic.gov.au or telephone 9379 7999.

The Essendon Football Club will be hosting “On The Ball” at Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club. On the ball is a school based health promotion program that uses elite athletes as role models in the delivery of a resiliency program, it is for girls and boys and is designed to improve long term health outcomes for kids. Angus Monfries and other Essendon players will host the program. This is an event NOT to miss.

When: Wednesday, 21st of March, 2012
Where: Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club
Location: Buckley Park, Cooper St, Essendon
Time: 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Cost: FREE
BBQ meals available for purchase.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE AMAZING ALREADY. WE JUST HELP THEM PROVE IT.

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Essendon PH 9331 0250
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### Date

- **Thursday 15th March**: Melbourne Storm Clinic—grades 3 & 4
- **Thursday 22nd March**: Melbourne Storm Clinic—grades 5 & 6
- **Friday 30th March**: Term 1 finishes
- **Monday 16th April**: Term 2 commences
- **Thursday 19th April**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 24th May**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 21st June**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 26th July**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 30th August**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 11th October**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 1st November**: FOEN Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 29th November**: FOEN Committee Meeting

#### Term Dates 2012

- **Term 1**: 1st February to 30th March
- **Term 2**: 16th April to 29th June
- **Term 3**: 16th July to 21st September
- **Term 4**: 8th October to 21st December

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### Update of Student Information

By the end of this week all children will receive a print out of their enrolment details. We ask all parents/caregivers to please check the details and amend if necessary and return to the school office to enable enrolment details to be updated on the School’s administrative system. Please return the form even if you have no changes so that we know you have received and checked the information.

Thank you.

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### ESSENDON STARS AUSKICK CENTRE

Auskick is the key introductory program for primary school ages boys and girls who want to start playing football! In Auskick boys and girls will learn the skills of football and have fun. The EsSENDON Stars Auskick program is run every Sunday morning at Buckley Park, Cooper Street, Essendon from 9.00am -10.00am.

**2012 AUSKICK REGISTRATION DAY**

Sunday 1st April 10.00am - 12.00pm

at Buckley Park, Cooper Street, Essendon

OR Register online now at www.aflauskick.com.au

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### JUNIOR FOOTBALL VACANCIES FOR CHILDREN AGED 7 - 10 YEARS OLD

Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club currently have vacancies for children aged 7 – 10 years old to play in an exciting junior program based around development, fun and fairness for all players.

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**Term Dates 2012**

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### “Benvenuti” to our Italian classroom!

I am happy to announce that this year Italian classes will be held in its very own learning space. The classroom is located next to the gymnasium. Italian lessons began in week three of this term and it is great to see that students have a sense of belonging and ownership over this fantastic learning area. Reactions and feedback from students so far has been very positive. I extend a warm ‘benvenuti’ to all, so please feel free to pop in and check out our little piece of Italy.

Regards

Nancy Berardone

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If you require any further information about the Essendon Stars Auskick program or the Essendon Doutta Stars Football Club Junior program, please contact Bradleigh Andrews on 0400 908 593.